

THE
SECRETARIES
STVDIE:

CONTAINING NEW

familiar Epistles:

OR

DIRECTIONS,

for the formall, orderly, and iudicious
inditing of Letters.

Whether	Amorous.	OR	Louing.
	Morall.		Ciuit.
	Oeconomicall.		Houſhold buſines.
	Politick.		Wittie.
	Obiurgatory.		Chiding.
	Excusatory.		Excusing.
	Petitionary.		Requeſting.
	Gratulatory.		Giuing thanks.
	Nuncupatory.		Relating Newes.

By Thomas Gainsford, Eſq.

Sic iuuat indulgere fugacibus horis.

L O N D O N

Printed by T. C. for Roger Iackeson, and are to be ſolde at his
ſhop in Fleetſtreet, ouer againſt the Conduit,

1616.

TO THE RIGHT HOPEFUL YONG GENTLEMAN

Maister Iohn Mounson at Charter-house,
and as likely to aduance his Vertues to Hono-
rable eminency, as any expectation
can warrant.



Enerous Youth, without other ceremony or complement, I am now to aduēture a iour-
ney (and a fearefull one) as the first voi-
age that euer I made into the streights of
opinion, or seuerer Censure: so that polli-
tick and temporising-men would contract
a sure bargaine with some rich marchant,
honorable patron, or sufficient *Statist* to protect and counte-
nance the enterprise: But in despite of aduerse Fortune, or
calumniation, I haue made choyce of your loue, fauor, vertue,
and good condition, of which I take the aduantage in your
virgin chastitie, and soules puritie, and wherein I will as much
reioyce, as if larger embraces had opened themselues to make
me credulous of sincere welcome: Bee therefore your selfe,
(expectable Gentl:) and doe but loue mee for olde loues sake;
and I shall bee so proud, yea, presumptuous in your accepta-
tion, that neyther windes nor seas shall affright mee, vntill I
haue made a satisfactory voyage; or (beeing ouer-freighted
with heavy Fortune) sincke the whole Stocke or Remaine of
mine abilities in this kinde, in other like aduentures: which
if it should so fall out, I could but conclude,

Hic finis Priami.

Yours assured, though there be
no assurance amongst men:

Tho: Gainsford.



*Non opus est digitis, per
quos arcana loquaris?*

Errata: pag: 5. lin: 4. read tracted.

Pag: 10. m. read loose. p: 13. l: 24. read sturd. p, 17. l. 6. r. euen. fol. 19.
l. 15. r. forer. f. 26. l. 5. r. adoration. f. 27. l. 7. r. country life. f. 30. l. 7. r. goe
p. 31. l. 26. r. fue. p. 34. l. 2. besides, for so. p. 34. l. 33. r. stake. p. 35. l. 16. r. work.
p. 36. l. 26. leaue out to. p. 43. l. 27. r. sedation. l. 29. r. inuitations. p. 45. l. 13. re. a bet-
tering. f. 46. l. 26. r. grow. l. 32. r. Lords fauor. p. 47. l. 30. r. hold vp p. 50. l. 11. r.
you might gather, l. 14. r. hauing. p. 53. l. 12. r. for the, p. 57. in the mar. follow-
ing & described, l. 21. r. O God! that p. 107. l. 30. r. obsolete.



THE TABLE.

pag	Amourous, or louing Letters.	Friendes would haue no unkindnes taken for any thing.	15
1	The Louer afraid to loose his friend contracted.	Necessitie causeth importunitie.	16
2	The Louer troubled with suspicion of hazarding his desire.	Friendship is brokenthrough deniall of trifles, and presuming of anothers weaknes.	16
3	The Louer iustifieth his loue from inward vertues, and outward comelinesse.	Friendship is lost through unkindnesse and discontinuance.	17
4	The Louer findeth fault with neglect of titles.	Ingratitude is not befitting a Gentl:	18
5	The louer complaineth of sequestration.	A man out of good manners must answer Letters.	20
6	The louer cannot endure a riuall.	Lealonsie should not be showne without iust cause.	21
7	The Louer cannot soone forget his loue, after firme rooting.	The difference between a willing and compulsed absence.	22
8	The louer desires secrecie, not ouer liberall discoueries.	Friendship is afraid to be forgotten.	23
9	The louer doth not tye his affection to outward beautie.	A good Wife compared to a Shippe at Sea.	24
10	The louer is afraid to loose his contentment.	A friend desireth a Gentle-woman to unite the inward vertues to outward comelinesse.	25
11	The louer maintaineth that a little iealousie will season affection.		
	Morall or Ciuill Letters.	Oeconomicall Letters, or of household businesse.	
12	True Friendship.	A Gentleman must take heede how hee settles himselfe in the Countrey as a Farmer.	27
13	Friendly precepts.	If a Gentleman will bee a Farmer, it is best to obtaine the principall House, or credite of the highest place in the towne.	29
14	An other of the propertyes of friendship.		

- 30 Concerning the building & ordring
a house, with retaining of seruants
33 Whether a Gentle-woman may with
her credite let out Lodgings for
money.
35 The danger of disagreeemēt betweene
man & wife, with their dutiis.
36 How Children ought to be brought
up.
38 How Seruants are to be instructed.

Politically, or witty Letters.

- 41 Women in yeares should rather look
for rich aduancement, then wan-
ton satisfaction.
42 A Gentl: should not be seruant to a-
ny, that hath a sufficient estate of
his owne: and if he be, with what
policy he must contriue it.
44 No Oathes must be beliened before
marriage.
45 He that will enrich himselfe by ser-
uice, must follow some thyring
Officer.
46 The Lady must be obserued, by such
as mean to thriue vnder the lord.
47 Some Lord or other must bee made
an Agent, to obtaine a sute of the
Prince.
48 Suites in Court are not dispatched
without great attendance.
50 A military pollicie to restraine inso-
lent mutiners.
51 What policy soeuer ambition buil-
deth vpon, it is cast downe with

death and destruction.

Men must submitte to their For-
tune. 54

Obiurgatory or chiding letters. 55

Against a sonne, for his disordered
life.

Against inconstancie, and following
a strumpet. 57

Against swearing. 58

Against couetousnes. 60 (friends,

Against denyall of trifles amongst 61

Against idle excuses. 62

Against pride, and tyrannous beha-
viour in great persons. 63

Against foolishnes and dishonesty in
a seruaut. 64

Against Drunkenes. 65

Against the breach of Wedlocke in
the man. 66

Against Whoredom, in the woman. 67

Excusatory or defensiuē letters.

Excuse for not lending money. 68

Excuse for being importunate in the
behalf of a friend. 70

Excuse for keeping company, and go-
ing to Court. 71

Excuse for sheltring with a stranger
in a storme. 72

Excuse for not dispatching a suite
of importance. 73

Excuse for tarrying too long from
a Wife. 74

- 75 Excuse for not dispatching of busi-
nesse.
76 Excuse for not writing & attending
unwilling persons to bee spoken
with.
77 Excuse for not forbearing a friend,
presuming to disgrace another.
79 Excuse for not being surety for a
friend.
80 Excuse for not entertaining a friend
as hee ought to be.
81 Excuse for not soothing up of hu-
mors.

Petitionary, or Letters of
Request.

- 82 A Request to requite discourtesie.
83 A request for Money.
84 A request to entertaine a daughter.
85 A request for assurance of a Farm.
86 A request to forbear a debt.
87 A request to forbear a dangerous
Ladies company.
88 A request to be charitable.
89 A request to entertaine a Scholler
for a Souldier.
90 A request for the Knighting of a
friend, and worthy Gentleman.
92 A request to defend a Widow in her
right, against all wrong and ca-
lumniation.

- A request for an office for another 93
A request for aduise in matters of
difficultie. 95

Gratulatory, or Letters
of giuing thanks.

- Thankfulness for a daughters good
bringing up, and well-bestowing. 96
Thankfulness for recompencing the
giuing of a Booke. 97
Thankfulness for an office. 98
Thankfulness for defending one a-
gainst a great aduersary. 99
Thankfulness for not believing a
false report. 101
Thankfulness for lending of Money. 102
Thankfulness for a timely good
turne. 103

Nuncupatorie, or Letters
of Newes.

- Newes from Xante and Candie. 104
Newes from Constantinople. 106
Newes from Scio. 109
Newes from Metelline. 111
Newes from Malta. 114
Newes from Venice. 115
Newes from Turine. 118
Newes from Zidon & Ierusalem. 120
Newes from Ciprus. 123



AMOROUS

LETTERS

To the onely Life of his desires.

Sweete Soule? What meane you to do with me? or what thinke you I shall doe with my selfe; considering your vertues, which I tearme excellencies haue beene Adamants of my feruentnesse, and I crected my building vpon so good a foundation, that you haue compared the *Sympathy* of our loues, to well tuned Musicke. From whence comes then this retractio? or how can you be so cruell to terrifie me with suspition? Oh doe not thinke that I haue praised those eyes, which my supposes, in ablence, imagine to reflect a very Sunlike lustre? that I haue doted on that fauor and comelinesse, which in the contemplation did euer transport me beyond my selfe? that I haue bene enamored on your beauty, which in the gazing hath ouercome mee with admiration? that I haue beene rauished with those kisses, which seemed an infused life to my distracted heart? that I haue bene amazed on that face, which me thought was a very mappe of louelinesse, and all in vaine? as though I could passe ouer the remembrance of my contentment with flightnesse, and frame my selfe to beleue contraries. No no, (*Sweet soule*) I shall not, may not, nor cannot. For it is not the fathers frownes, nor the brothers storming, that I respect, but your sadnesse and teares, your sorrows and complaints, which me thinks resemble spots disgra-
tiously

*The louer is
affraide to
lose his be-
loued.*

tionously chancing to pure linnen: be therefore the patterne of your selfe: Let vertue remaine vnmaimed: continue constant & well satisfied: & for my part, what euer goodnes may arise frō our allowable proceedings, I will iustifie. To be plaine, let the assurance of your desires warrant my hopes, remoue my ielousie, and I will lose this life, rather then thus hazard the life of my life. But I hope I haue encountred with an vnderstanding woman, and there shall need no such expostulation. Nay I am assured I haue cast my selfe into the lap of vertue, which like the square Die being euery way throwne standeth vp-right, so that if there should be any blockes in the course of our iustifiable desires; either a strong arme of policy shall tumble them aside, or a noble resolution spurne them away in scorne: in which assurance I will rather breathe with ioy, then pant for feare; and at last proclaim to the world, there bee women will remember their vowes, and can be loyall in spight of contradiction or calumniation.

Your afflicted friend.

To his fulnesse of Contentment.

*The Loner
distracted
with feare
of hazzar-
ding his de-
sire.*

M*Y onely Beloued*, I had not thought loue, especially in such youth, had bin capable of moderation, that already you can be contented to dispute the matter with reason, and to consent to the peeuish restraint of ill concluding arguments; which some enuious tongue hath whispered vnto you. Oh that our first meeting had receiued this restraint: then with small grieve I might haue ouer passed my feare: or had the fire bene kindled with artificiall degrees, I might haue preuented the flaming outright. But now when I am in the violence of my speed, when the heart burneth with passion, when my very life dependeth on the hope of your assent, and that,

in

in a manner, you resolved my cure and redresse, to stand at a stay, to dispute the matter, to find cause of distasting, worketh in me impatience, so that I know not how to demeane my selfe. Oh, do not slightly passe ouer these things, or with an vnkindly grauity censure my proceedings. Remember I haue, will, and must loue; and what cannot or dare not loue effect? Is there a suspition of prodigality? loue wil be a shepheard, nay a slaue. Is there a mistrust of incontinency? loue will settle desire, and quite extinguish all flames of vniust concupisence. Is there a breaking out offolly? loue worketh discretion, & reformeth abuses. Is there a feare of want? loue hath no want, and contriueith impossibilities. Is there a doubt of any thing else? loue attaineth any thing else, and facilitateth any difficulty. Alas, what could I not say to pleade for my selfe? what would I not say, nay what would I not doe to please my selfe, especially when such loueliness enamoreth? Do not therefore beleue: faith and honesty bids you not beleue? my selfe bids you not beleue these slanderous enemies of affection, these brokers of misreports: for I protest you shall finde it otherwise, and they in the disceptation proue ashamed of wronging the innocent. Let me therefore come to appease them, let mee come to satisfie you, let me come to iustifie my selfe: nay let me come to die quickly or liue happily: for this is intollerable, and I cannot credit my feares, nor beleue these tormenting apparitions.

Your liuing dying friend.

To the onely hope of his Fortunes. Mrs. B.

MR Soules life, When I beheld you first, me thought nature determined to open a storehouse and shew vs some excellent workmanship, and so as a man long-

A 2

ing

Loue occasioned through a unity of inward vertues and outward comeliness.

ging for nouelties, I looked and gazed on the same, yea with admiration commended her handiworke: but after I had considered what inward vertues caused the motion of this outward worth, and louelineffe, I could not but compare it to a rich casket, containing within it more richer iewels: so that you must not wonder at my likeing the same; but rather maintaine the cause of my iudgement, for bestowing it selfe on so wel deseruing a subiect: nor is this flattery or idle discourse, but iustice in yours, and necessitie in my case: for as you haue inflamed mine affection, so there must be vsed some meanes of satisfaction. Thus requesting you to consider me, as a man, whose thoughts, words, actions, life, soule, and all attend you, not daring to behold the Sun of the world, till they receiue comfort from the Sunne of your fauours, I remaine

*The honourer of your match-
lesse perfection.*

To her chiefeest Contentment.

*The Loxer
findeth fault
with neglect
of titles.*

M*Y Loue and Ioy,* I haue read, that the Emperours of Rome did commonly looke on the date and superscription of their Letters; whereat, if they were distasted they reiected the same, and would not ouer-view them further: but yet I will not serue you so by taking such state and imitation vppon mee; but impute your neglect of our couenant concerning reciprocall titles, to a gentle triall of my simplicitie and loue; withall, intreating henceforward, not to let forgetfulness, or contempt put in a finger, lest by intrusion or sufferance it bring in a hand, and so the whole body. For why should you giue me any cause of suspition, when a warrant is sealed of our happinesse; or assume to your selfe a counterfeit libertie

libertie of trying my patience, when you know I will pul out mine owne heart, before it shall entertain a thought of alteration? Therefore I pray you remember your selfe, and those vowes you haue contacted; remember mee, and that affection you haue inflamed; remember vertue, and that goodnesse which you haue commended; and remember loue with that honesty you haue professed: and so I expect, that as you are my chiefeft content, your next Letter shal confirme me your choifest delight.

None but yours.

To the Honourable Lady, T.G.

HONORABLE, and worthily honoured Lady: Although fame hath set open the enclosure of your praises, whereby Honour and Vertue remaine exposed to the world, as you see a rich Diamond augmented in his lustre by the cunning of the workman: yet is misfortune so tyrannous vnto me, that I am necessited to an vntimely banishment, even when there appeared life in your patronage, and delight in your loueliness: so that now to sequester my selfe is an absolute walking in darkness, and a miserable staggering without supportation. Yet againe, when I consider, with whom I haue encountered, and that I am faine into the hands of a generous spirit, and heroicke worthinesse; I conceiue great pleasure in my confidence, and I begin to grow proud, that I may publish your vertue, I dare say loyall Constancie. Be therefore then your selfe great Lady: and let the opinion I conceiue of my fortunes, encourage my endeavour, that al the actions my industry shal undertake may receiue life frō the beams of your name. Then though I might raise my glory equal with the Sun I would not faile

Lone complaineth of sequestration.

to lay it prostrate to your high acceptatiō: & so I request you giue me leaue to diuulge to the world, that the sphere, in which I moue, is gouerned by your influence: that I cannot liue without your fauour; that I will not loue, except you vouchsafe it; that I haue no other Lady, but your selfe; no other world then the place of your residence. And thus I bid you fare as vwell as vvishes can enlarge, leauing my soule in your tuition: vvich if you preferue for her ovvne, yours, or my sake; Oh how happy shall I bee, and vvith glad tidings vvill it returne vnto me, and (I hope) command me to returne vnto you: and so I rest in the best expectation, and *bascia la honorata manu.*

Your Honors deuoted.

To the Honorable and his highly respected Lady, B. S.

*Loue cannot
indure a ri-
uall or com-
petitor.*

Right honorable Lady, I cannot deny but a Diamond is a pretious stone, though imbased in lead: but excellently polished, and set out to the best becomming, it must needs constraine a farther praise and admiration: so fareth it vvith Vertue, vvich no question is allow-able in the meanest persons: but vvhen there is a vni-ting of many graces, as beauty, generous minde, noble birth, settled vvisedome, affable demeanour, and such like; it not onely approcheth absolute perfection, but bindeth vs to high and strict obseruation: of all vvich I must & dare publish you a instāce, so that it is the pride of my life to iustifie my soules desire to serue you; and the glory of my bondage, that I am made seruile to such vvorthinesse: command therefore (*great Lady*) but vvith all command me to loue; for I cannot line except I loue; nor care to die so I may loue you onely, vvho are vvorthy of all loue. Yet my dearest happinesse, I beseech you mistake me not; for howvvoeuer I haue subiected my selfe, I
(like

(like a Soveraigne) can indure no cōpetitor: & although it cannot be chosen, but the very starres ouervvatch you, and therefore many eyes on earth looke toward you, & many hearts vvish you vvell; yet shall I neuer endure anothers claime, much lesse a daring hand to take you in possession: be therefore thus circumspect for humanities sake; not betray your vertue to corruption, nor my poore valor to inevitable danger. For if you frustrate my hopes either by vvillingnesse or vvantonnesse, I renounce the vvorld, all vvomen, and my selfe. But if the high strongest arme stretch it selfe toward you vvith inhumanity, or compulsion; my rest is vp to make it shrink backe again, or cut it off in the extension. *Yours in death it selfe.*

To the Noble and truly vertuous Lady, F.M.

Most worthy Lady had not my loue receiued life from the breathing heate issuing from your gracious acceptance; it might vvell haue recoyled vvith the first violent reiection, and taken our a new lesson of restraint, vvith a ciuill acknowvledging your greatnesse, and confessing that the starres are onely to be looked vpon vvith an abasing reuerence; but you know, (and none but you shall know) that vvhen I made my selfe a stop, as afraide to go further then either my strength or policie could direct me, a louely hand tooke me by the arm, and drevv me along to the height of my happinesse, vvherein I vvill sit as glorious, as the Sunne in his strength, & in despite of maligne circūstances, or malevolent aspects, embrace my fortune vvith gladnesse. Therefore I pray you desist frō questioning my presumptuous attēpt, or affrighting me vvith your greatnes, or tormenting me vvith discovery, or murthuring me vvith suspition, or sending me to hell vvith terror of your losse. For I dare, & vvill thus an-

Loue will hardly bee suppressed, after it hath taken firme rooting.

swer every particular. Concerning my presumption, It is easier to reach at a high bough then to stoop to a low straw; it is glorious to be busied in honourable designs: and he is made famous in the attempt, though he faile in the conquest. It is a worthy resolution to aime at a wel deseruing object: and how euer the hazzard be, there is a show of a generous spirit; sith fortune and loue are painted blind in their portraitures. Concerning your greatnesse, we haue many instances of *Queenes* and *Princes* pulling vp inferior persons to honour: nor is loue tyed to such lawes of priuacy; but being naked, himselfe shewes plainly, that flesh and blood lies as naked to the incursions of his passions in high and lowe: the lowe not ouer-awed with titular dignities, or outward shows; nor the preheminance of the hie priuiledged frō amorous affecting the lowe. For my selfe, I am in blood generous, and in affection fully contracted to loyalty: concerning discouery, who shall betray vs but our selues? nay, who dare whisper against vs but iealousie? and in that lies the secret of our prosperitie. For what is difficult to get, is carefully preserued; and where there is danger in the aduenture, there is sweetnesse, and ioy exceeding other ioyes, when the perill is ouerpassed: therefore be you reposed, and let me bustle with mischance; for I am resolved to loue you against all ouerwatchings. Concerning suspition, Oh giue not wings to my feares, that some other will intrude and participate my immunities; or doe you it onely to make a triall of my spirit? Beleeue it; before I will consent to such basenesse, I will pray for *Sampsons* strength to pull downe the house on all our heads together. And concerning your losse, Oh there is death in the verie sound, and it cannot bee raised out of any other circle, then enuy at my prosperitie, or your owne desire of a more worthy seruant, whereat I
am

am now stricke silent:and vnlesse you confidently resolue me what to trust vnto, I will not liue to write you another Letter.

Yours, not to liue without you.

To her best choyce, C.D.

M^r *lones Pride*, Although I am enformed, that by your *Loue desires* liberall praises of me, some quicke apprehension *secrecie, not* discovered your liking, yet cannot I take it so ill, as to draw *ouer liberall* you within the compasse of reprehension, because I would *discoveries.* not slacke the first vehemency, wherein loue hath nobly displayed his colours on all sides. Let vs therefore continue resolute; and if by some small absence we sometimes slacke the burning of these fires, shall it not resemble a Smiths forge, who casteth water on his coales to strengthen the heate, and make the flame more glorious? Yet by way of caution, it is not alwaies befitting to speake what wee thinke, nor report what wee know, lest a captious eare mistake our discourse, and a passionate heart set the tong at randome. As for our selues, there hath bene made a reciprocall trial: & for my owne part, as you expect constancy in me, I request secrecy in you, and so am resolved to loue you, and none but you, while I am warme in my hearts blood.

Yours in the midst of feare.

To his vertuous and dearly beloued, M.A.

S^w *Heart*, What a strange countermaad did you send *True loue is* me, not to visite you, because your late sickenesse *not tyed to* had cast a defiance in beauties face, as if my liking depended on outward shewes! Why, good Soule? when reason *outward* had won the field of passion, I loued a vertuous *beantie.* *Cassandra,*

B

not

not a faire *Hellen*; a noble spirit, not an outward feature; a constant resolution, not a fading comelineffe: and yet I am perswaded no disaſter whatſoeuer can haue power to controule thy beauty or bounty; onely time excepted, which muſt weare vs out with death, and then ſhall our ſoules welcome a perpetuities: therefore I pray thee let me come, if it be but to ſhew my ſelfe a man a louer of vertue, and maintainer of all conſtant and honeſt reſolutions.

Yours euer reſolved.

To the Miſtreſſe of his thoughts, F.D.

*Loue is afraid to looke
his contentment.*

M*Y Loue and life*, I hope it is not come to that paſſe, that you can bee contented to diſpute the matter with diſcretion, as though it lay in your choice, which way to trauell to the palace of Felicitie; as though wiſedome had taught you to wipe away the forces of Fancie, with a commanding hand; as though ſome diuine inſpiration had forewarned you of enſuing miſhaps. For ſure no objection can now be made, which long ſince receiued not a foile in the encounter; therefore I pray you (if my fortunes be ſo bad, that I muſt reuiue your memory) goe to that groue where we called the trees to witneſſe, and ſware by the pleaſant ſhade, that nothing but the fruite of enioying one another, ſhould coole the fiers of loue, and there recount the words wee counterchanged, the vowes we contracted, the teares wee drunke vp from each others faces. But I can ſay no more, vnleſſe I ſhall bee inforced to exclaime. I am vnworthy to liue; becauſe my deareſt life ſuppoſeth me vnworthy to loue, or be beloued: which if it bee but in ſhew; as you breake the ſeales of theſe Letters, you breake the ſtrings of my heart.

Yours dying in conſtancie.

*To his best beloued and more then much
respected Mrs. G. Z.*

WOrthily beloued, These pretty crosses and contradictions make Loue the sweeter, and strengthen Fancie the more, when the vaile of iealousie is taken away, and an honest heart hath taught a stroug arme the cunning to turne aside all obstacles of our delight: yet beleeue me, it was a miserable temptation, for you to sweare my falshood, and lay the weight of disloyaltie on the brest of an honest man. especially to raise your suspition, from so vnworthy a person, and degenerating a cause, when there was no motiue to startle my resolutions, nor thought to disparage your worth. Say the course of the Danse brought mee with her to a turning change, and that afterward I commended her graces and comelineffe, I could doe no lesse out of courtship and good manner: but to say that either procceeded from ambrous passion, is to be ouer passionat, & vnwarrantable by reason, or laws of loue. Besides, some tongues haue traduced her for a wanton: and then is beauty as ill bestowed, as valure in a prophane swaggerer: so that me thinks you should rather haue challenged any other for deprauing me in this kind, then beene challenger your selfe to raise a greater discase. But I hope you are now satisfied, as no such misprision shall euer endanger the vnitie of our loues againe.

A little iealousie seasoneth true loue

Yours fearefully louing.

To the worthiest of all my friends..

My other selfe, You haue commanded me to write, and I durst not but obey: nay, you haue prescribed the method, and therefore I wil not alter the maner: but make

A letter describing true friendship.

you belecue I haue apprehended your wil, and would thus
satisfie your desire. True friendship is an vndissimuled
consent of our affection towards one another, and a very
transportation of two hearts into one body: so that two
friends in a manner loue with one minde, speake with one
tongue, execute with one hand, liue with one life, and
sometimes die with one death. Amongst friends must be
no contradiction, no disproportion of conditions, no dis-
similitude in manners, nor talke of mine and thine. Doth
hee sorrow? thou must mourne: doth hee reioyce? thou
must not repine: doth hee complaine? thou must not ac-
cuse: doth hee demanda? thou must not denie: doth hee
want? thou must not murmure: doth hee contriue? thou
must practise: doth hee desire? thou must not reprove.
For though priuate thoughts are proper to our selues, yet
the fortunes, goods, persons, and estate of friends, are to
remaine in a pleasant communitie: vpon this, some Philo-
sophers haue maintained, that one man can haue but one
friend; framing thus an argument, *A contrariis*. If there
be danger in many enemies, by reason of the many and vn-
certaine courses to reuenge: there is trouble in many
friends, by occasion of diuisions in consent. According to
the opinion of *Aeschines*, there was no such grieue as to be
diuided from him we did loue. For looke what properties
loue ever contained, were in friendshippe maintai-
ned: and because loue could not receiue her estimation fro
vntoward liberty to change; friendship hath bene denied
her desires to alter. *Tully*, the light of eloquence, had friend-
ship in such account, that he preferd it before kindred, be-
cause in the dissolution of loue, the name of a kinsman re-
mained, but in the priuation of friendship all titles and
goodnes ended. If then with these properties you can bear
with my imperfections, I with these conditions will tole-
rate your defects, and so shall this name of friendship passe
and repasse reciprocally between vs. *Yours vnseparable.*

To his highly esteemed.

Worthy Sir, Whereas you complaine of my slownesse in visiting you, and slacknes in writing: concerning your selfe, I am determined to remaine with the same faith and order I euer accustomed; & touching those latter motiues, I will come as neare your satisfaction as I can in this slender discouery. Vnderstand me then, that my poore experience would open the mystery of this knowledge vnto you: that fortune, which we so often prophane-ly remember, is no way to bee overcome but with Vertue: that Vertue is neuer so well to be entertained, as in youth: that youth is but some speciall flower in a curious garden, kept by extraordinary diligence, till an vntimely blast perish the stalke, and impouerish the beauty: that beautie is like a white wall curiously trimmed, which if an enui-ous hand do besprinkle with a few vncleane droppes, a present alteration daunteth the company: that company is like a strange net catching all fish, vnlesse they slip into some vnknowne nookes, or auoide the danger by oither cunning: that cunning is like holding the Wolfe by the eare, which if you wrest hard, you are bitten; if you let go, you are in perill of life: that life is like a strong timbred tree, which at the maisters appointment is cut downe in a small time: that time is resembled to sweete smelling flowers, which must be staid to please the sense, and stilled to heale the body, or else they will bee faire to the eye, and as vnprofitable as ill disposed friends: that friends are like childrens sports, who for a new Counter refuse an old Angell, and to go to a strange nurse, forsake the nearest kindred: and that kindred are like *Tantalus* apples, which keepe their shew till they be touched; but once pressed, crumble to powder.

A letter of friendly pre-cepts.

These be principles to my grieffe experienced, and may without offence be to others good embraced; not that I go about to draw you into suspition: but because I would preserve your remembrance toward me, whereby I must needs be satisfied, if you be not displeased.

Yours as I haue professed.

To his esteemed friend, C.N.

*The proper-
ties of true
friendship.*

SIR, Had not our friendshippe receiued reciprocal strength from true vertue, and worthy conuersation; I could slightly haue passed ouer your last deniall of trifles, and quietly gathered the raines of discretion to restrain the forwardnesse of impudency or combersomnesse: but when I remembred our combination, and with what conditions we contracted a league, especially the nature and propertie of friendship, me thought there was a pleasure to name you so, and a comfort to finde you so: therefore from hencefoorth let vs vnderstand one another better; either firmly to maintaine the cause of kindnes, or lightly to leaue it vnder the colours of courtesie. For the best Philosophers haue chained loue and friendshippe with equall goodnesse, so that as loue can endure no competition, friendship must abide no community: as loue can haue but one fauorite; friendshippe should admit but of one companion: as loue pardoneth, friendship forbeareth; as loue commandeth all, friendship is denyed nothing: as loue entreth when he list, friendship doth so vncontrowled: as loue triumpheth ouer the heart and affection, friendship raigneth ouer body & goods: no excuses, no drawings backe, no contracted brow, no delaies, no hiding the head, no daintinesse, or absurd ceremonies; but a happy *Sympathy* to strengthen goodwill, and an absolute power to command, and readines to obey one other. If
then

then with these conditions, you can bee contented to march arme in arme to the house of contentment, I am yours as you mine; and both to shew the world an example of happy imitation.

Yours indissoluble.

To his assured friend, F. L.

SIR, To craue pardon were to submit, and more then you looke for: obstinately to offend were iniurious to you, and not befitting a Gentleman. To auoyd therefore the one, and to eschew the other: For not writing, imagin want of skill: for not comming, suppose my businesse to hinder me: for not sending, thinke I could not conveniently: thus you see I am willing to be excused, where I am loth to be accused; & considering I loue you better then other men, I would not distast you if it were possible: especially because I haue tyed my selfe to true obseruation, as you haue professed a happy contract of kindnesse. In hope or rather assurance hereof, I pray you present my seruice to that louely party, whom I compared at our last meeting to a rich Diamond orderly inameled, and extraordinarily set out to the best grace; and all to shew the cunning of the workeman: so that if my fortune could but conduce me to the way of entertainment, it would sure exceed the worlds happines, and I durst search the whole earth for *AEsculapius* bones to restore her eyes: but if you play the truant with me to shew her this letter, giue mee leaue to be my owne interpeter, and let not your excellent wits triumph ouer my simplicitie.

The properties of true friendship.

Euer your owne.

To

To her tried and trusty friend.

*Necessitie
causeth im-
portunitie.*

Worthy Sir, Hauing relyed on your noble promi-
ses, and knowing my selfe on a sure and honest
ground, concerning the secrets of my discontents, I
rested some way satisfied in the expectation of the perfor-
mance; and thought my selfe happy in this unhappinesse,
that I had falne into the hands of so noble a Gentleman:
so that if there were no more in it, then loue and assurance
of your selfe, I would haue bene silent, till your owne lea-
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ties knocking so hard and so fast, and conspiring with the
suddennessse of time against my patience and quiet, I am
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Not lining without you.

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out

out once looking backe to see, wherefore I am despised, & why, without offending, debarred from the same. But because I must and will acknowledge it, and in a maner confesse my selfe all darkenesse without it, yea readie to bee plunged into euery durty bogge & irrecoverable danger: I humbly beseech you therefore, either to extend a gracious hand to stay a fainting soule from sinking, or giue mee leaue to blame my misfortune, that hath thus subiected mee to the violence of so dangerous displeasure; whereby if you be not the more noble, discontinuance shall make me worse, then water spilt out of a vessell neuer to be taken vp againe. For what a terror is this? nay, how vnexcusable, for my selfe to haue you in towne, and I not to visite you, or so much as once to bee thought vpon? yet it may be, this eternall horror of gentle minds (shame and wants) haue onely stirred vp iealousie to afflict me without cause; considering you will be still your selfe, and loue me for being honest, and endeououring to make vertue proud, that pouertie cannot abase her: In which hope I send you my true and faithfull heart, howeuer I remaine most miserable in the feare of your losse.

Yours in true friendship.

To his Honourable friend, Sir. T. B.

*Ingratitude
is not befitting
a gentleman.*

Worthy Sir, In those times, when *Dracon* the tyrant of the East, aduanced himselfe to the height of soueraignty, ingratitude and iniustice were punished with death: so that if he vnderwent the imputation of cruelty, it was not for satiating a blood-thirsty-minde, but reuenging the neglect of his statutes: now if examples endure longer then precepts, had not wee neede in these corrupt times to stand on a guard of circumspection, not to vilipend vertue lesse then the heathen, nor practise impietie worse

worse then idolaters ; and if they thought ingratitude worthy of death; I hope we shall (at least) suppose it vnbe-
fitting a Gentleman. Wherefore without further comple-
ment, or larger circumstances for those many fauours,
wherewith your plentiful hand hath euen laden me; I o-
pen the exchequer of the poore, and thanke you with a
publike acknowledgement of the same. Yet giue me leaue
(considering mischances are multiplyed vpon me) to re-
semble my selfe to a man tumbling downe a staires; who
neuer leaues falling, till he come to the bottom. And
concerning your last promise vnperformed, how can I
be compared better then to a man lying faint and woun-
ded on the ground, whom some courteous hand seem-
eth to aduance, but lifting him vp halfe way, letteth goe his
hold, and so he falleth backe againe to his sore hurt? there-
fore, good Sir, either giue my hope fuller wings, that it
may take a higher flight of security, or let me die at once,
to auoide an euerliuing misery: and this I vrge the rather,
because in cases of vntoward distresse, there is courtesie in
quicke dispatch; as in the benefits of friendship there is a
double pleasure in the timeliness, and orderly disposing
offauour. Now my request is, if any vngentle hand hath
cast durt into the pure streame of your loue; Oh, let it not
so remaine, but either cleanse it your selfe, or giue me leaue
to pull it out, what danger soeuer I incur: and if my for-
tune be so malignant, that a flauish report hath ecchoed a-
gainst my peace, Oh, let me know the particulars, and an-
swer for my selfe accordingly. And thus assuring my selfe,
that I shall fall into the hands of iudgement, with quicke
apprehension, I leaue all to fauourable construction, and
commit you to his hands, who can aduance you to the
height of your desire, and merit of your woorth.

Post scriptum, Gratia ab officio, quod mora tardat, abest.
Your thankfull friend.

To his much esteemed Friend, C.G.

*A man out of
good manners
must answer
letters howe-
uer they
prone vnfa-
uory in the
acceptation.*

SIR, I am sorry that my letters were either vnfauory for the matter, or tedious for the length, considering that out of the rules of ciuilitie I was to answer yours, and the necessitie of my businesse to importune further, then you thought good manners. But such is the misery of wants; and poore men are resembled to ruinous walles, which euery man shunneth for feare of falling vpon them; otherwise I could excuse my selfe many waies. First, to auoide idlenesse, wherein the *Persians* were so obseruant, that they would rather whittle stickes, or rip the seames of their coate, and sewe them vp againe. Secondly, to eschew ingratitude, which is a vice vnbecfitting a generous minde of all other. Next, to exercise my vnderstanding; for to write to so delicate a iudgement, and apprehensiuie a wit, craueth study and a carefull foresight: then, to better my knowledge: For if I doe well, your commendation can confirme me; if I fall into errors, your wisdom can reforme and restraine me. Fifthly, to make you belecue, there is some good thing in me allowable and iustificable, and therefore worthy of a small regard, as noble Sir *Philip Sidney* was wont to say, Let vs loue him for one good qualitie; for a great many haue none at all, and no man hath all. Lastly, to know what to trust vnto; for to hope for a thing which commeth not, and to loue them that care not for vs, be two of the liuing deaths in this world. Therefore, Good Sir, let me not pleade in vaine, that pleade so truely, and vrge these reasons, rather to know how your loue shall bee enlarged, then my vaine glory published: and if you please to second my enterprise, I shall with a further cheerefulnesse proceede in my businesse; if not, as good fall at first, and all at once, as liue in expectation of more

more mischiefe, and greater troubles. Thus I bid you farewell, and to fare better then I can fare, vnlesse you wish me well.

Yours, as a louer of Vertue.

To her newly displeased Friend, M.I.

Good Sir, How commeth it to passe, that you draw my *Iealousie* loue and modesty in question, for my ciuill entertai- *should not be* ning of a Gentleman last night, as thogh I could do lesse, *shewne with-* then affoord him a salutation, and performed too much in *out cause.* continuing our morall discourse? Beleeue me, I am not ignorant, that loue is seasoned with a little iealousie, but beeing out of *Italie*, grow proud of *Englands* libertie, where the practises of humanitie teach vs the true vse of cōuersation. So that an vncorrupted heart is Canon-proof against a slanderous tongue, but a wanton minde will turne vertuous sentences to laciuiousnesse: if then you were well perswaded of my vertue; to put all out of doubt, there passed not one word, which a diuine might not haue bene partaker of; otherwise bee resolved, that if I had not bene limited with the bands of respecting you, I would haue bene tyed to the conditions concerning my selfe, and neither haue giuen eare to immodest parlee, nor way to any vndecencies: and so if you are satisfied, I am pleased. But from hencefoorth bee more confident of my worth, and lesse suspicious of my loyaltie.

Yours, if you wrong her not.

To her best resolved friend, F. G.

*The difference
betweene a
willing and
compulsed
absence.*

M*Y true and worthy friend,* Your late discourse concerning absence and realousie, as if they were rather inflamers, then extinguishers of loue, hath almost startled my resolutions concerning the negative: that is, whereas I held an opinion that iealousie & absence were rather deficiencies in themselves, and meerely obstacles to continuing kindnesse, I am now perswaded, they may so march in the army of passions, as to haue the Vauntgard in the encounter of affection: but withall I haue learnd so much cunning in morality, as thus to distinguish betweene their abuses. Concerning absence, there is a difference in that which is constraigned, and that which is voluntary. For there may be honourable causes of the one, when the other at (the best) is but an vntoward triall of one another, as imployment in martiall affaires, legation to forraine Princes, trauell to enrich experience, necessitie of trafficke and such like: to all which no worthy party beloued, but will affoord a helping hand, and admit of hope of returne; patience to endure, and wisedome to harken after his endeours: but voluntary absence, if it could bee veiled vnder the adulterate shew of trials, hath so many ill companions, that it can neither doe well it selfe, nor bring them to any good order. For commonly, it is accompanied with carelesnesse, slacknesse in obseruation, suspition, feare of idle humours, vnkindnesse; and, at last, meets with vtter obliuion, with diuers of that sort: and what shall the party beloued conceite, if she first demand reasons of his departure, and after finde a breach of vowes for his returne? so that alledge what philosophicall inference you may, and guild it ouer with the imposturing Art of Oratory: I absolutely conclude, that howeuer pleasure is the stronger in
his

his rarity; loue, true, honest, and perfect loue is no way beholding to a wilfull absence. Touching ieaiousie, I confesse I haue read of a holy-day in hell, when loue and ieaiousie were marryed together: but howeuer they feasted for that day, I am sure, all the time after they were turmoyled with despight: For except a great discretion ouermaster suspicion; feare, rage, madnesse, watchings, disquiet, abstaining from meate and rest, torment of minde, and vntoward distractions accompany vs, especially if there be the least cause giuen of the breach of vowes. Oh then, loue prooues like a beautiful glasse, which once broken, can neuer be cemented againe: yet I confesse, there may bee a ciuill emulation concerning a Riuals worthinesse, and honest feare to hazard the thing vnohtained: but once, wiued and contracted vnseparable, there can be no man ieaious, but vpon his wiues disloyalty; and she that giues the occasion, must aduenture her honour. I will not therefore haue the marryed man ieaious; and would tye the amorous suiter within certaine bounds, lest by transcending, he transshape his owne discretion into fury, and quarrelsome humours, of which, a well disposed Gentlewoman would, nor should be any way guilty: and so, till I heare further, I leaue what you haue heard, to a fauourable construction.

Yours wheresoeuer.

To the worthie and Noble .L.B.

M^r best Lady, I wold not now proue recreant to my former cōstancy, considering I haue not only plaid the wanton with affliction; but haue had you a looker on to my great encouragement: yet some vnkinde feare begins now to stagger my resolution, because I finde a falling away amongst your selues, like loose earth from a maine banke; and am resolued that this banishment will vtterly

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dis-

disioynt the frame of our long acquaintance, and at last pull in peeces the bands of true friendship: else how can it be, that I am vnworthy the remembrance? and who would haue thought I should so long haue passed vnregarded? But this is the corruption of greatnesse, either you thinke to make vs slaues by obseruation, or dare not bee your selues vertuous, for feare of cōbersomnes: as for friendship, kindnesse, loue, faith, loyalty, respect, and generous dispositions: they are but voyces and smoake, and as you all vse the same, like *Tantalus* Apples, which once touched, turne into cinders, and yet hang with glorious shews to the eye. But will you serue me so indeed? and as the diuell seduced the woman, the womā enticed the man, the man offended his Maker; run arme in arme in the race of contempt, and at last triumph in my deiection? Why, doe a Gods name; and then shall you see mee smile in distresse, and reach at the helpe of all helpes out of heauen it selfe: yet for al this, I pray you do not mistake me, but rather impute all to the distraction of my owne feares, then your defects: for I haue euer loued your worth, and while I liue, will thinke you worthy to bee beloued: so that if amongst your other vertues, you can pardon this vnfaourinesse, I shall receiue a new life, and with a further chearefulnesse present my duty once againe vnto you.

Yours, if you proue worthy.

To his much esteemed Mrs. P.

*A good wife
cōmended &
compared to
a ship at sea.*

Mistresse, Me thinkes I behold you like a goodly ship at sea; so that, I which am a stander on the shore, must needs be afraide, when I consider the danger of boysterous winds and raging billowes; the perill of the shelves and sands; the terror of rockes and shores; the inconueniencies of harbors and long voyages, and the hazzard of in-
counters

counters with pirats and men of warre. Yet againe, when I remember the excellent workmanship in your contriuing, the strength of your building, the comelines of your raising vp, the delicacie of your trimming, and aboue all, the cunning and experience of your Pilot and steersman, I am somewhat pacified, and had rather expose you to the glory of famous voyages, then see you lie still in safe harbour, where time and many inconueniencies shall weare out your keele, and obscure your beautie: therefore go forth a Gods name, and let me see you vnder saile. For the wisest of men, hath compared a good wife to a ship at sea, which bringeth her food from a farre; and so I make no doubt you will esteeme your selfe, and not aduenter abroad without care, order, and good prouision. In which hope, I leaue you to the fortune of the world, and send my good wishes after you, to fill your sailes with the best winde, and bring you home againe with the fulnesse of prosperitie.

Yours, and Vertues.

To his well aduised Friend, Mrs. H.

Good Mistresse, Obedience is better then sacrifice; and therefore doe I send you these triuiall letters according to your command imposed, requesting you not to be too quicke in apprehending any thing amisse, nor sturpide in not conceiuing what belongs to your portion: For I protest, I meane to say nothing, to draw your worthinesse in question; nor will leaue out any thing, which may manifest my good opinion of you. I then must begin with a certaine custome of the Schoolemaisters in *Lacedemon*, who at the first admittance of their scholars, brought them a glasse to looke in: If they were faire and comely, they then aduised them to take heede, that the inward vertues answered the outward louelinesse;

A friend desireth a Gentlewoman to unite the inward vertues of the mind to outward louelinesse.

D

other,

otherwise they might resemble painted sheaths couering
onely wodden swords, so that true beauty and handsom-
nesse consisted in noble parts, not outward feature. If they
were mishapen, or outwardly deformed, to endeouour for
the adoration of the minde, the light of vnderstanding,
and the load-starre of wisdom, whereby they should see
no man except against the first shape: and here may man
ouerpasse the imperfections of nature, by extolling the
conditions of nurture. Now I hope I shall not neede to
apply this to your selfe, because I am assured you look in a
glasse every day; and although you do not with *Narcissus*
doate on your owne forme: yet you cannot choose, but
be thankfull to nature for so extraordinary benefits con-
ferred; and withall, remember, what a happinesse will make
you perfect in this world, if you vnite such inward graces,
as begin already to take you by the hand, to pasc out the
measures of worth and modestie. Go on therefore, go on,
that I may liue to say, Yonder goes the wonder of time,
and the true example of noblenesse and beautie. But I dare
not enlarge my wishes, lest I fall into an extasy, and from
giuing good counsell to others, crosse mine owne iudge-
ment for not doing as I should my selfe: yet I sweare, if my
fortune were worthy the name of a fortune, I durst tri-
umph amongst other masters of earthly contentments,
that you thinke me of deseruing to bee commanded by
you, and put me in the Catalogue of your chiefe friends.
The businesse you inserted, shall bee dispatched, and the
next letters discover, what I thinke of the choise of a hus-
band, and to what conditions I would tie man and wife,
liuing in a generous libertie.

Yours well aduised.

To

To his dearly beloved friend, M.T.

Good Sir, I well perceiue by your worthy disposition, that obliuion cannot get the mastery of vertue in iudicious and honest friends. For howeuer we are remote in body, you haue iustified your remembrance toward mee, yea continued a good opinion, and strengthened it with a conceit of my vnderstanding somewhat; concerning your retired country, tis so, that some thing must now be said, drawing neare to satisfaction, but especially to discharge the dutie of a friend, and faithfull well-willer. Beleeue it then, that in diuers persons a country life neighboureth contemplation and quietnesse, according as we adapt our selues to the same. For a Gentleman, of any reasonable estate, desiring to free himselfe of citie vanities, continuall resort, extraordinary expences, superfluous diet, curiositie of apparell, and alluring temptation, may so seate himselfe and persecute his passion, as to meet with profite and reposednes, in the countrey: but then his resolution must be, not for any occasion to ouerpasse the limits of his intended expences; because, if hee once step into the vaine-glorious reputation of a housekeeper, a giuer of almes, and desire of salutations from russet coates: his verie Hall will eate vp his Parlour, and hee shall bee drawne in to spend more at a Christmasse, then his vpper chamber in the citie did in a tweluemonth. But for a free spirit, and a liuer onely vpon a stocke, to bee emboldened with the hope of commoditie, and bettering his estate by a husbandly paines-taking, is as farre from expectation, as to feede a hunting horse on the commons, and yet presume to run with him for the best game. For hee that must say to his seruants, Go, and to his men, Doe this, must be a Centurion, who liues vpon an annuall entrade: but hee that is

A gentleman must take heede how he settles himself in the country as a farmer.

a vine-dresser, must labour and take paines himselfe, yea haue both art and discretion to manage his affaires, that when he sees a barren figge-tree, he may not in a rage goe and cut it downe, or stocke it vp: but prune it, dung it, dig the earth about it, and make triall of another yeere. Besides, for a Gentleman of worth, to liue in any towne in suspicion of a decaied estate, or necessitie to increase himselfe by industry: especially where they doe but seeme better men of eminence, is, as if a man should goe from his vnderstanding friends, who out of ciuilitie would neither disteeme him, nor reueale his secrets: and proclaime the same in publike, exposing himselfe so to derision. For beleeue it, howeuer the country man may bid you good morrow, and stubbornely bend his knee, his heart is full within, and at home hee cares not what he murmures against you; except you are in office to controule him, as a Iustice of peace: or in abilitie to pleasure him, as Lord of the Mannor: or in credite to terrifie him, as some officer at Court: or in estimation to master him, as some noble mans man or other; especially, a priuy counsellours. Besides, the seruants will loyter, the Bailiffe will sooth you vp with flattery to deceiue you; the cattell will famish or diminish, the plough will go vntoward, the whole family liue in confusion, and the best by-word shall be for you: a poore Gentleman Farmer. All which considered, I could be contented to see you here again, where you may eate meate with the best, and sort out your pleasures at as easie a rate, as you list.

Your plaine and true Friend.

To his louing and long expected Friend.

Good Sir, I would not haue you play with me, as the Jewes did with *Jeremie* about their going into *Aegypt*, asking his opinion, and swearing a conformitie, till his resolution was contrary to their owne mindes, & so they retracted, scorning the Prophets aduice: thus it may be you expect at my hands to iump with your desires, and please you by way of soothing, and applaud your pretences: surely I onely cast but a doubt, and therefore will thus plainly tell you my opinion. The house and Farme you haue taken, as I vnderstand, is the Mannor house, and hauing many Tenants, you haue as many priuiledges by their seruiceable tenures. Here questionlesse you did verie well: for by this occasion you shall keepe the stubborn man in awe, and confirme the well disposed with securitie: besides, whereas peraduenture you cannot take paines your selfe, or attend the plough in person; the principall point of husbandrie and tricke to winne the game for a meane estate: you shall be sure that the very best husbands will ouer-looke your grounds for you, as glad to spie a fault in them, or come with a tale to pleasure you, euen with offering his seruice to amend it himselfe for you. But withall, is not the house of too great receipt, costly to furnish, chargeable to repaire, dangerous to keepe, and drawing on extraordinarie expences euen for fewell and maintenance? besides, is there not a certaine expectation of extraordinary house-keeping, and entertaining of passengers? Wherein to proceede, it will drinke vppe the profite of the Farme like a Sponge; wherein to drawe backe, will drowne your reputation in vilipending. This is that I would say vnto you, so that if you meete with diseretion,

If a Gentleman will be a Farmer, it is the best to obtain the principall house: or the credite of the highest place in the towne.

and iudgement in so intricate a businesse; surely I must applaud your choise for taking the mannor house; but if you chance vpon iollitie, or vaine-glory, determining to thriue, you will take as wrong a courle in being a farmer, as I haue done in aduising you against your minde, and desires.

Yours, with good wishes.

To his well aduised friend, S. G.

*Concerning
the building
and ordning
a house with
retaining of
seruants.*

SIR, When I opened your last letter, and ouerviewed the sentences diuided into interrogatories, I was almost affrighted, as if there had bene a citation sent for me: but after I considered the particulars, and saw they were onely household aduertisements, or (if you will) husbandly questions, for the better settling a man in the possession of contentment: I cheered my selfe, and thought it good manners thus to answer them; wherein, if I pay you in your owne coine, and not once to looke into the treasure house of Oratorie for any rhetoricall amplification, remeber the iustice of my cause, and the low flight of my subiect. But to the purpose: VWhereas you demand, how you should build your house? I answer thus; That though former times esteemed it better to haue a house too litle for a day, then too bigge for a whole yeare, and cared for no conueniencie of lodgings, so the hall and kitchin were bigge enough to dresse meate, and entertaine company; yet doe not you so, but discouer a good spirite by the outward fashion of your building, choose a handsome prospect and wholesome scituation; let your lodgings bee warme and light, for you may darken them at pleasure; your staires easie, and your roomes of entertainment large & delightful; the out-houses conuenient, the gardens and orchards to the South and your owne chambers neere your husband.

husbandrie, yet as farre from annoyance as you may. In a word, let the whole frame discover your willingnesse to do well, rather then brand you to hereafter memory for couetous and basely disposed; and if you can leaue an estate of a thousand markes behinde you, let the passers by, viewing the house imagin it a 1000. pound a yeare. For so a second good husband & a good family to match in, may raise it in another age, and then followeth a kinde of repining, that my father or grandfather was not well aduised, and esteemed more of money, then the reputation of his family. But, aboue all, take heed you exceed not this proportion, lest either you incurre derision, for beginning a worke you were not able to finish; or leaue the house to emptinesse and decay, if your next heire be not sufficient to adorne and furnish it. Whereas you demand what retinue to keepe? I answer, Haue rather one too few, then two too many, & of al other things, take heed to an idle seruāt for corrupting the rest: for I cannot but resemble him to a stinking broad spreading burre, who is not onely bad in it selfe, but hinders the rest of the grasse growing round about it. And concerning outward shew, by that time your Clarke, Coachman, Butler, keeper of your Wardrobe, chiefe Bailiffe, and better sort of husbandmen be instructed the houre of attendance, and haue also an honest care and cunning, cleanelly to shift themselues, there may be a sufficient ostentation for a hundred pound a yeare. Whereas you demand what fare you should keepe: I answer thus; let not the Sunday so exceed, as there be scarcitie in the weeke following: giue the laborer sufficient, for dainties fill not the belly: allow not euery one a breakefast, nor euery day three meales: haue your meate warm and good, but do not reserue the best dish, till it be starke naught: if a neighbour come in about businesse, let him tarry a Gods name; if he be inuited, set before him, what he hath not

at home; rather haue a litle & fresh, the return a great deale to sinell of the dry larder; and aboue all, let not the end of the table be so forgotten, either to be serued with blowne drinke, stale bread, or refuse meate: (For goers and comers by the dore will looke for that, and better) because such a heart and tongne may sit at your boord, as will repine at his nasty entertainment; and be bold to publish your reproach. Wheras you demand what cattell to keep, I answer thus. For a Gentleman, Oxen are better then Horse, because after any mischance they may be fed for the butcher, and few men of sort would cart for mony, or attend the court with a Teeme: let such doe that, as loue toile and mony, and tast any paines taking with the fauerines of profit: those geldings you keepe, let them be wel & orderly kept: so that if your country must be serued, you haue one in readines: the seruants which ride with you, let them be honest, carefull, and well prouided, and take heed of basenes, as plowing cattell, broken saddles, patcht bootes, vnmatched spurres, a sword without a chape: nay I would not haue the sword and hangers of one fashion, and girdle or dagger of another, with infinit such disparities, and meerey ridiculous nastinesse. Wheras you demand what gouernment to obserue? I answer generally thus: and for particulars, you shall heare more heereafter: Aboue all, remember the Sabboth, and rather feast of any day, then of that: not but that the Sabboath is a continuall feast, but how? for spirituall purposes, not filthy gurmundice: more then necessity of life, and good vse of conuersation: let no swearer nor prophane person, once or twise admonished, tarry with you: giue good examples by your owne praiers: and rather by gentle exprobration, then filthy vndecencies reprehend your seruants, but suffer them not to be masters amongst themselues. To conclude, be charitable towards offenders, gentle to inferiors, willing
to

to giue, carefull of good neighbours, and remember the sicke labourer, and fainting soule.

Yours, with a true heart.

To his respected Friend, Mrs. G.

M*R* old acquaintance, I vnderstand by your first seruant, *Whether a* that you haue enlarged your minde with your house, *gentlewoman* determining to lodge ciuill Gentlemen, and to raise a be- *may with her* nefit from their entertainment: besides, you adde for ex- *credit let out* cuse, want of company, and that your house is ouer-great *lodgings for* for your owne family: here is now a subiect of plentifull *money.* matter, and in dilating the same, I must needs incurre displeasure on all sides. But there is now no remedy; you haue in a manner enioyned me to deliuer my opinion, & I will be briebe and plaine, according to my skill. I then would with one blow cut off the *Hydraes* head of confusion, and ouerthrow all distinction by the negative, thus; That a Gentlewoman, whether widdow or wife, liuing in the freedome of reputatiō, is not to be seruile in any thing, nor to bedurtie herselfe with the dregges of any couetousnesse, or sinister practises against her credite. For as it is vnbecfitting to a Gentleman to bee guiltie of any seruile crime; so it is vndecent to a Centlewoman to incurre the hazzard of her honestie by any base inclination. Now what can the best lodging and lodgers maintaine, but the inconueniences depending will quickly ouer-sway the the profite following? For if they be onely men, they must haue seruants, and commers, and goers; the seruants shall bedurty your carpets and couerlets (if the masters themselves are tied within the circle of respect and ciuilitie) wipe their bootes and scabberds on your best furnitures, tosse your kitchen, commaund your vtensels, turmoyle

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your

your house, and vpon the least contradiction burst out into violent and offensive termes: and for your selfe at the best, you shall passe with the character of Hostesse, Land-ladie, Sweete heart, or some such inuention. The commers and goers shall bee of all sorts, yea many times Seamsters, Launderers, kinswomen, and such like, not without some venomous inclination to incontinencie and riot, vnder the handsome greene grasse and colour of businesse, and entertainment. If they bee onely women, I can say no more, but women will bee women, who cannot liue without the company of men; and then if the fire and tow be put together, there must needs be combustion, what glorious shew soeuer the flame appeare with; or what admirable cunning is vsed in the kindling or extinguishing: so that, hold the ballance of an vpright conscience how you will, you shall not scape the imputatiō of dishonest practises from base calumniation, howeuer the better sort hold their peace to make you an instrument for their pleasures. If they bee men and women, so a doubling of many inconueniencies; there is but onely this excuse afforded, that Opportunitie is a baude to Corruption, and vncleane persons are now safe, being so conueniently lodged. This is briefly my opinion touching a Gentlewoman that lodgeth for money. But for others that are tradesmen, and must aduance their estates from the gaines of their profession, I dispute not at all, but leaue it as a thing indifferent to my approbation, howeuer I would not haue them lose the benefits of their endeauiours, when they may make double vse of them. First, in the rent of their chambers, next, in the encrease of customers for the venting such wares as they expose to sale, wherein their credite lyeth, onely at the state in those customary vsances of swearing,
lip.

lip-labour, and the secrets of their businesse, so that letting their lodgings, may seeme lesse offensive through a cunning ignorance, then many indirect speeches through a customary dissembling.

Yours, well affected.

To his assured friend Mr.S.S.

Good Sir, It was an vnfauourable news to me, when I heard that some ominous action had diuided the mutuall agreement betweene you and your wife, wherein I cannot resemble you better, then to a churlish husbandman, who putteth some head-strong horse into his Teeme, and when they go forward, he striueth backward, the seruants beating him to greater rage, and the Master wanting discretion to take him away, till a more conuenient season, so that howeuer they disquiet themselves, I am sure the war in hand, is rather hindered then forwarded. Thus is it, when man and wife are not fast tyed in the bands of loue and discretion, but subiect the whole house to confusion, and send disgracefull rumor abroad to busie idle tongues, with many vntruths amongst some certainties. For alas, what man will be so foolish that loueth cleanness, as to besmeere himselfe with dirt and filth? what husband will be so senselesse as to reuile his wife, and bring his owne name in question? what shall the children thinke to heare their mother called whore? what shall the seruants imagine to see their mistresse distracted with ialousie and suspicion of one side, and shame and calumniation on the other side? what shall the neighbours imagine, to bee acquainted with such disgraces, and whisper that a Gentleman so abused himselfe, or durst discredit his wife. Come, this must not be; For as women must admit of an honorable obedience, rather then imperious controwle, of

*The danger
of disagree-
ment between
man and wife
with their
dueties.*

sweete and gentle perswasion, rather then contentious ex-
 probation: of a modest disposing themselves to all house-
 hold affaires, then a busie entemedling with their hus-
 bands affaires; of a fashionable entertainment at all sea-
 sons, especially a wise obseruation according to time and
 occasion: rather then a sudden apprehension of their hus-
 bands distemperature, either in passion or affection: so must
 men abandon themselves from home inconueniences,
 beare with their wiues imperfections, not taunt before
 seruants, not burst out into filthy and scurrilous chiding,
 or reproches at all; be charitable euen concerning offence,
 not churlish for trifles, not deny necessities, and in no sort
 giue ill example by leaud life, or bad husbandry: lest wants
 knocke at the doore, and then will bitternesse and displea-
 sure enter. So that concerning falling out betwene man
 and wife, I thus conclude; If it bee possible to auoyde all
 eruptions against ciuill life, louely behauour, or necessarie
 businesse: but if disagreements begin to shew a face, let the
 man leaue the wife for that time, and not endure the con-
 tention: let the wife retire her selfe, if the man begin, and
 not dare to reason the matter.

Yours, in religious care.

To his approoued Friend, R.S.

*How children
 ought to be
 brought up.*

GOrd Sir, Your last letters were so passionate, that sure
 in the writing you vented sighes, if you did not
 shed teares, and I cannot blame you: For, a father that
 hath an irrregular sonne, and a dangerous daughter, not
 only weareth out his time to prouide them maintenance,
 and leaue a competency behind him, that they may ranke
 in the foreward of ciuill people: but watcheth his houres,
 and growes gray with care, lest one will not be reclaimed,
 and

and the other step aside into wantonnesse. Therefore saith the wise man, that hee that setleth his sonne, hath layde a strong foundation, and he that marrieth his daughter, hath dispatched his chiefest businesse. Whereupon I would aduise you, concerning your sonnes, not to cocker them too much, or be ouer-nice, either at their vprising or dyet: not to let slip their yeares, but commit them as soone as you can into the hands of instruction: bee not of that minde, that the rod must be a tyrant to them, but rather endeuor that they feare to offend for the loue of vertue, then feare of punishment: suffer neither oath nor vncleanely speech to profane or defile their mouth, nor let them presume proudly to insult, or vnmannerly to reuile the meanest seruant. Comming forward, and growing to vnderstanding, make not nature a slaue to cunning or profit; that is, enforce them not against their owne inclination to follow that which is irkelesome vnto them. For, if you tie a great spirit to a seruile trade, hee will neuer proue good chapman; or contend with dul capacities about mystical secrets, he will neuer grow good scholler, & so in the rest: let them euer be, where either the best company shal giue good example; or if inconueniences follow, they may haue the shadow of honourable purposes: but aboue all, let them neither practise deceit nor dishonestie: for, when a mind is once corrupted with basenes, it resembles a stinking vessel, which will neuer be througly sweetned. Concerning your daughter, presume not too much of our countrey liberty; for wantonnesse standeth at the corner of euery Street, to inuite the comers-by: yet do not so restraine her, that shee may eyther murmur at the same, or complaine to her neighbours of her Parents hard hand, as though shee were viciously inclined by nature. If it bee possible, rather school her within doores, the aduenture her

with a pedant abroad; and for dancing, courtship, and such like; let the be vsed rather like a feather to a litle dust, which may be brushed from the garment, the guard or seame, which shall weare out with the cloath: giue them warning of familiarity with the seruants: For a curteous ciuility becommeth the children of Gentlemen, but wanton embraces, sitting on the knee, bearing in armes, and such like, be fearefull signes of following confusion, and too forward desires: sitting vp late, allow not; nor giue way vnto night banquets: For they resemble the stolne bread in the Prouerbs: and a strumpets Title is the nethermost hell, wherein the name of Virgine is perpetuallie damned: make them not proud, either of natures portion, or the fathers dowry. For women will looke in a glasse, and shal not want any flattering to seduce them to vanity: and concerning the vpshot of all reckonings, which is mariage, let her neither assume so dangerous a liberty, as to run at randome without your consent: nor be you so transported with a variety of selfe-love, as to draw her perforce to vnpreuentable inconueniences, yea many times mischises, and confusion. For, these matches in infancy, as (contracts for mony without liking, enforcements, to vnequall yeeres, or nasty disparily, with diuers of that kind) are meere pullies to winde vp care, sorrow, and discontentments, and at one letting flippe the hold, to hurrie them on the head of a poore afflicted virgin.

Yours, in true liberty.

To his illadvised friend, I. M.

*how seruants
ought to be
instructed.*

SIR, I am not ignorant, that the two maistring corbes, that gouern the reines of the whole world, are *premium* and *Pana*, reward, and punishment. I doe also know, that in a statute against stabbing and wilfull murther, there

there is a clause of exception inserted, for fathers and masters in correcting their children and seruants: yet will I giue no such way to the violence of passion, as that a Gentleman, or otherwise ciuill disposed liuer, should strike or wound his seruant with any dangerous weapon: nor can I any way colour your temeritie, for contending so long with that boysterous knaue, as to bee compelled to free your selfe: (for such be the words of your excuse out of his robustious closing with you) by the stabbe of a dagger, which ranne 9. inches vpward ouer his pappe. Beleeue me, it was a fearefull falling off, and I wish in my heart there had beene no such occasion giuen to draw your discretion in question, nay to endanger your person and estate. For if he had miscaryed, the king hauing lost a subiect, you must needs haue beene brought to iudiciall triall, & then lawes are according to the Iudges construction, or Iurors interpretation. Well, I hope from henceforth you will be better aduised, and rather bring vp your seruants so, that either they shall not offend, or after the offence be apprehensiu of instruction with more gentle correction. Therefore choose the sonnes of such men, as rather will second their fathers honesty and credite, then follow their owne wantonnesse and riot: let euery one haue instruction for their feuerall places, yet teach them al to obey when you command, and not one to command another: haue an eye vnto the honest diligence of the meanest, and grace him with a cheerefull reward. If you chide for good occasion, ler the proudest be the subiect of your first admonition; wherein be so temperate, that vndecent reuilings beate not your mouth, but words fauouring of wisdom and iustice. Thus shall the rest stand in awe, when they see you are not partiall or fearefull: if aduice serue not, spare not a smarting blow; which if it prooue a sturrer vp of rage or contēpt in him, bring him to publike iustice,

justice, but be not you on him, your own executioner: suffer neither oathes nor prophanation: no gaming on the Sabbath, nor for much money at any time: nay, let it be rather a recreation, with a modest acknowledging your wincking at small faultes, then any commaunding voice to passe away the time, or please themselves: let them not slack the houres of attendance, nor the entertainment of friends: giue care to no busie bodies, tale-tellers, nor flatterers of your imperfections, least gouernment, turne to confusion; and recreation to dissipation: as pride is a drawer on of filthy enormities, so nastines and vncomely adorning themselves brings surquedry, and loathsomenes. To conclude, in one word, let your seruants be such of all sortes, as shall doe what you prescribe, rather then make vse of the time to maintaine their owne pleasures, and licentiousnes: as for such as must performe inferior seruill duties, pay them truly, and send them to their worke orderly: neglect no seruice of God for any cause: and if you haue (as you ought) priuate praiers, let all come, and know what reuerence meaneth: hearken to the time of sicknes, and let them not complaine for want, nor cry out to God for suffering more then they can away with: vpon good deserving, adde a recompence, and let none presume to strike or reuile another. Infinit other particulars would draw on many lines, but these shall suffice, till better conueniency to shew my loue and duty, and serue for caution and aduertisement.

Yours, in charitable aduise.

To his noble Lady and Vertuously respected, T. G.

Worthy Lady, I thinke it not befitting the time, nor the tendernes of your sex, to giue such life to your memory, as Catalogue the praises of that worthy knight deceased,

deceased, or draw in question his want of iudgement in this one point, or peradventure abilitie, in leauing you thus wrapped vntowardly in accounts, and bringing you (as hauing five daughters to marry) to the house of care and sadnesse, further then the sorrow of his losse, and the ceremonies of his exequies pretended. But I would rather open the store-house of instruction and comfort, and shew you the Embleme of Fortune, or Time shadowed with a hairy foretop, as if we might take hold thereon for any purpose; and a bald head behind, as if opportunity let slip, were not to be recouered. Therefore without ceremony, if there were not necessitie, yet out of a necessary policy, let not the noble Iudge be dallyed with in his honorable purposes: and considering the heat of youth is spent; and as the Poets sing, that *Hiperions* fires burne not with a wonted blase, be rather cautelous for a well disposed life, then indirect satisfaction of fancy: this I would say if you were rich and childlesse, good helps in all times both good and bad: but as time hath brought you to wrastle with some inconueniences, you must learne if it be possible to giue a fall, rather then a take foyle: & both for your own and childrens sake, dispence with wantonnesse, and be rather prouidently ambitious, then ambitiously improuident. For by this match, your *quietus est* shall be obtained, your peace shall be made without disquiet; your accounts shut out of the kings Exchequer; your household affaires reduced to an vniformity; your lap filled with money; your eares with submissiue petitions; and your chamber with the better sort of visiters; your daughters shall still walke in the schoole of courtlinesse and befitting suters, and rather be taught to step vp to honor, then fall downe to feare of preferment: euen their youthfull desires for ornament and cost shall bee so supplied, that you shall graunt without grudging, and they demaund without

*Women in
yeares should
rather looke
for rich ad-
uancement,
then wanton
satisfaction.*

out timorousnesse or combersome importunity: their portions shall be sure of augmentation. For though he do not open the strings of his owne purse, yet from custome, the vnder officers will bring in presents: and such Gentlemen as before would make question of some incombances, shall now attend your house for resort and noble conuersation: so that without controuersie there is no refusing his loue, nor disputing with any maligne circumstances of his yeares and humours.

Tours, in honest aduise.

To his much disquieted Friend, A.S.

*A Gentleman
should not bee
seruant to a-
ny man that
hath a suffi-
cient estate of
his owne: but
if he be with
what policy
he must con-
tract it.*

S*IR*, I am ashamed to shew my selfe a traitor to gentry, and binde a free spirit to the seruitude of controule: for the wisest & greatest must faile through imperfections, and he which submits to the command of another, cannot tell how he may bee driuen to impatience: so that I could sweare, that it were vnbecfitting to a man of your estate, a Gentleman of blood, a housekeeper of account, a Iustice of peace, and a commander of many seruants, to fall backe into the contemned estate of seruitude, & weare anothers blew coat. Yet because pollicy hath some secret walks into which Vertue will not enter, and that I see errors hale vs along to dangerous inconueniences, without satisfaction of humours, I am contented at this time to deceiue your apprehension with the mist of pollicie, with guilefull feeding of ambitious and contentious humours. If then your feare be so great of the knight your adioyning neighbour, and Lord of the mannor, that either you must come to triall of the law, and profuse expences, or meet with contracted browes, and perillous encounters: there is no such way to wipe away the feare of these encombrances, as the
sup-

supportation of the great Lord you speake of, whose service must be orderly implored, but cunningly obtained: wherein I would haue you resemble the Lapwing, which cryeth farthest from her nest; and so fasten your selfe vpon him, rather with admiration of his vertues, which haue altogether attracted your submission, then feare of your owne defects, or desire to bee, by his helpe, reuenged on your aduersary: and this you must strengthen a while with attendants and presence, marking whom he admits to his secret familiarity, and consorting with them, not so much for fellowship, as to be a mediation betweene your Lord and your self when occasion shall burst out, & shew some particulars of your wrongs, where by way of discourse you may intimate, that you wonder at your aduersaries audaciousnesse, not to forbear you now for his honors sake, considering one vertue enclined to another, and he would not maintaine any iniustice for a world. As for those controuersies impending, his Lordship should command him as his seruant, and ouer-rule all, as should seeme good to his honourable pleasure. This is the surest channell, as I take it, to lanch forth your ship in the troublesome Sea of contentions, with your betters, or at least such, whom the worldes estimation reputeth in a higher eminence: So that if you can dispence with some disgraces, which may chance by distemperature of your Lord, and calumniation standing on the tip of idle tongues abroad, you may meet with sedition of countrey troubles, and peradventure carry the sway of applause and obseruation, euen at publike imitations, as your credit with your master is subiect to report or opinion.

Yours, in honourable loue.

To her louing Neece, G. B.

No oathes to
be beleued
before mar-
riage.

Mr dearest Loue, There hath passed and ouer-passed a rumour of the young Counts affecting you, wherein loue hath dealt like himselfe, and chained him to certaine streights of passion: so that by voluntary oath he hath protested conditionall mariage, if you please to afford him a primordiall satisfaction: wherein loue may Simpathise between you I know not, but meerly out of honest & honorable policy, goe into the open channell, rather then come neere the bankes of Nylus, where Crocodiles may deceiue you with teares; & of all other things, let no man boast of diuiding you, til you yeeld him possession of al together: & this is a caution euen amongst wantons, not to marry with him to whom dotage or misfortune hath prostituted them. For what hope is there but a following eternal ieaousie? & when a breach is so made, a continuall roaring and thundering of whole vollies of checkes, taunts, and opprobrious tearmes, of whore, strumpet, filth? What had I, but another might haue gotten? and what know I, but thou art still a broken glasse neuer to be cemented againe? Therefore sweete Neece, stand vpon a strong guard of circumspection, and doe not expose the certaintie of your honorable merite and high attracting worthinesse, to the vncertainty of deceiueable promises: I care not, though I tearme them fully resolued oathes. For one way they are yet in the pleasure of the first maker: another way, in the danger of better resolued conceit, when the heate of wantonnesse is reclaimed, and some new displeasure shall open a gappe of both your ouer-sights. But I hope I neede not ambiguously handle the cause of your vertue, and modest inclination; considering you haue many times

times cast a defiance in the face of temptation: and will now surely, when you are to bee tryed pure gold indeede, not make it adulterate by ambitious desires, or foolish credulitie.

Yours, in preuailing truth.

To his louing Cousin at Court, H.A.

Good Cousin, Seeing you are resolued to follow the sway of time, and become a Courtier, with an intent to depend vpon the fauourite of the kingdome, that noble and generous Count: you may take your owne race to leape, as high, and farre as you can: But as my aduise and experience whisperm to pleasure you, there is no policie in it at all, considering your proiect to your selfe of bettering your estate, and husbandly desires to fill your purse, and not vaine-glorious ostentation, or publike glistering with feathers and colours, which many times beare better men then your selfe, to dangerous inconueniences; and at the best, draw on expences without other satisfaction, then courtly smiles, and deceitfull smoke-promises. Besides, there shall be so many before you hanging on expectation of sure preferments, that when you shall thinke to step forward, there will scarce bee roome for you to lay on a finger on the preuailing end of the beame of prosperitie. Therefore be ruled by me, considering some good parts may adde to your youth reputatiō, and to good carriage more respect; place your selfe as neere some quiet officer as you can, and by seruiceable attendance, not obscuring your qualitie; giue him notice of your willingnesse to bee commanded, and aptnesse to bee imployed, as he shall thinke conuenient.

*He that will
enrich him-
selfe by seruice
must follow
some thriving
officer.*

Thus shall you contriue and winde your selfe into some profit at home, and be knowne well enough abroad: yea so well, that performing your duty for the priuat affaires of your Maister, when alteration shall happen, you may by some voices be called to the publike managing affaires for the state.

Yours, as you can desire.

To his deereſt brother, G. D.

*The Lady of
the house
muſt be ob-
ſerued of
ſuch as meane
to thrive vn-
der the Lord.*

Good Brother, as I am glad, that you haue extracted the loue of your honourable Lord: ſo would I be the gladder, if you did contriue the continuance of the ſame. For there is no leſſe cunning in keeping a thing well gotten, then in attaining it before it be in poſſeſſion: but if it be as I heare, you are ſo far from true pollicy in this kind, that I am afraid preſumption will trip your expectation on the ground, and giue your forwardnes a foile. For they ſay, that you diſagree with my Lady, and vnder colour of my Lords profit, oppoſe her in triuiall demaunds: take heed (I pray you) in time, and if you meane to ſtand firme, as you ſometime, for reuerence of her eſtate, take her by the arme to lead her along, let her likewise take you by the hand, to ſettle you in ſecuritie. For if women wrought *Salomon* the wiſeſt and greateſt of all Princes, out of his full courſe of vertue and pietie, ſuch a woman as ſhe will quickly conceiue, if ſhe be diſeſteemed of you, and as quickly gone to miſlike of your perēptorines, or audatiouſnes, and as quickly deſire to be reuenged, wherein if ſhe be reſolute, you ſhall not know who hurt you, nor ſhe care, how you are ouerthrowne: therefore good brother, be not deceiued in this contumacy, but reduce your ſelfe to vnderſtand, there is no aduauncing the colours of eſta- bliſhment on the citadel of your Ladies fauor, if the Lady
Barricado

Barricado the entrance, or seeme enuious after your proceeding.

Tours, in all occasions.

To the honourable L. and his high esteemed Patron.

Right Honourable, Although all the rivulets of fauour and grace, haue their sower and flowings from the fountaine and spring of Maiestie: (for neither is honour bestowed, petition granted, commission sealed, nor any things disposed without the kings liking and firme:) Yet is there a kinde of policie to bee vsed in contrining and compassing the same. For to step bluntly to a king, and vrge him to a grant, or peraduenture expostulate the matter with him, may seeme vnfaury, and without the sure ground of a high exalted fauorite, receiue a protraction, if not a deniall: therefore your honor must be contented to doe as the Lords of *France* amongst themselves, one to preferre the suite and request of another: so that if this Baron would haue an addition of honour, that Counsell-feller is engaged, and intimates to the Prince his woorth, his valure, his vertue, his former imployment, and such like. If that Earle would haue such a grant, then doth the other take a time to illustrate the latters praises, and inferre the necessitie of acknowledging & rewarding the same, with all the gracious properties of liberalitie incident to a Prince. Thus must your Lordship make some second meanes, and how euer Honour could be contented to repine to depend vpon the liking of inferiors: yet must policy restraine passion, and discretion giue you notice when the king is disposed to grace: and so though a present must be exacted, you need onely hold your head, and be contented till your businesse bee determined, in which you must apply your selfe to the time, so farre as in

*Some Lord
or other must
be made an
Agent to
obtaine a suite
of the king.*

honestie

honestie you may: But you must speake them faire whom you like not; and smile where the heart swelles, and goe along euen with the obseruation of Court, though you shuld take a iourney another way to better purpose. These be the passages to which time and fortune driues all attendants in Princes courtes, and so it is fit so farre as policie may not hinder the peace of a good conscience. For God hath said, they are Gods, and there is no such proximity to a godhead, as with a breath to aduance whom they will, to haue mercy on whom they please, and to cast downe the presumption of such who abuse their fauor for vn honest pretences. And thus I leaue your honor to the order prescribed, and successe of affaires.

Your Honors obseruant.

To the Right Honorable and worthy L. G.

*Suites in
court are ne-
uer dis-
patched with-
out great at-
tendance.*

Right Honorable, seeing you haue vouchsafed to descend so low a degree of humiliation, as to make me partaker of your secrets: I will surely raise vp my selfe (as farre as I dare) to yeelde you some reason for our last conference; and warrant your honor, that there is no vnkindnes thrust vpon you, though your busines seeme detracted, and (as you supposed) procrastinated: For beleeue it, there is a pollicy of state, not to dispatch suiters too fast, for diminishing the glory of the present court, and weakning the maiesty of the Prince: if euery one should be admitted at their owne pleasure: & as in the height of martiall discipline, some things must be absolutely commaunded, not disputed vpon, all secrets are not to be reuealed, and euery man that dare aske a question, must not be resolved: so in the Counsell of kinges, and their best ordered courts, no man ought to contest with the iudgement, that the Chancellor shall pronounce: nor traduce the last
verdict

verdict after he hath appealed to the Prince. For if you sel-
dome bring a Phisition in question, that knowing his pa-
tient out of danger of death, and of such a constitution,
that some excellent potion will quickly aduance him to
the pristinate state of health, and yet dallieth with him a-
while, peradventure to shew some secrets of arts: perad-
venture to make him beleue a difficulty in the recovery,
and peradventure to enrich his purse by an often resort to
him that is able to giue. There is no reason to presume so
farre, as to call in question the affairs of great Counsellors,
especially determining for the common good, without
partiall interposing either their own purposes or passions:
nor can any man come vnto them at any time, but diuers
shall bee found afore him, who challenge a dispatch of
their businesse, according to the priority of their suites:
therefore your honor must lay no such burthen of the state,
to thinke, if there were such an interposition, that any
mans priuate malice could preuayle with the authoritie,
grauitie and wisedome of the rest. Besides, it may be there
is a further policie to draw out the thred of this cloth of
businesse at the greatest length, to keep you from a further
suite, or troubling the king with other matters of impor-
tance, till this be dispatched, and hung on the file of assu-
rance in your behalfe. This I presumed to write vnto you,
because you commanded: but in regard there bee some
things you will not command, nor I can iustifie in the an-
swer; I meane to reserue them till I haue opportunitie to
present my dutie vnto you, as you haue shewed a generous
minde, to manifest your good opinion toward me.

Your Honours deuoted.

To his well experienced friend, and noble minded Gentleman, G. P.

A military
policy to re-
strain insol-
ent mutinies.

Noble Sir, Whereas at your last conference you told me coming from *Germany* to *Antwerpe*, you saw no watch set, and a kinde of fearefull stilnesse amongst the souldiers, wherein I could not resolue you so suddenly, because you spread no larger cloth of nouelties, and peradventure durst not in that place raise any suspicion by demanding many questions: I haue now thought good to adde to your experience some intelligences of my owne, whereby as you well sayd, then I doe gather the occasion of that defection, and desisting from their martiall ceremonies: You must then vnderstand, that the Garrisons haue newly mutined, and from insolent attempts drawne a fearefull execution on some principall offenders: the Gouvernour of the towne and citadell, did put in practise an ancient vsance and policie of martiall discipline, to command a cessation from orderly watch, and souldier-like seruices: And this was an absolute custome euen amongst the *Romans*, that when insolent and tumultuous souldiers had looked with grimme and traiterous visages on the face of good order, and made a repugnant disobedience against all law and restraint, the Captaines presently prohibited any calling to the watch, any preparation to the Parado, beating the drums, attending the colours, or to vse any ceremonious brauerie: whereby the mutiners, that were so lusty before, seeing what a confusion they had wrought, and how they presented a sort of Pedlarie reapers in a scattered field, beganne to bewaile the want of their honourable customes, and to confesse their former rudenesse and oversight. And this was the cause of the stilnesse in *Antwerpe*, at your lod-

ging in the towne. And amongst other policies of warre, according to the severall businesse in hand, of which you shall heare more hereafter, when we haue further leisure to dispute of other occurrents.

Yours, in terror of death.

To his well disposed Friend, Mr. M.D.

Good Sir, Conceiue of me what you please, there is not a man in this kingdome shall haue more interest in me, then your selfe; and that you shall well perceiue by my plain and true satisfaction of your demands, although it be somewhat too intricate to deale in such confused questions, and dangerous relation of businesse; Whereas then you demand the reason, why so many great and noble persons haue (as it were) met with death and destruction, in the violent race of their turbulent innouation, and insolent wilfulnesse: not taking warning by precedent examples, nor terrified with the euer-impending reward of treason, which is the ouerthrow both of themselves and families. I answer, that truely I can yeeld you no reason, because all they pretend, is not onely against reason, but many times against policie, and at all times against honesty and religion: yet can I giue you some false fires, and (as it were) contriue adulterate excuses out of fauour and partialitie. You haue read then that the diuell in compassing the earth, did consider mens frailties in his progresse, and as the principall marke of the world, hee most gloriously attempts, principallities and powers: so that sometimes hee pleadeth the axiomes of Philosophers, and reciteth a pestilent position out of *Euripides*: that if faith and loyaltie be to be rent asunder, it is excusable, in com-

*What policy so-
euer ambition
build vpon, it
is at last cast
downe with
death and de-
struction.*

passing a Diademe, and reaching at a Crowne. Thus *Stephen*, Earle of *Blois*, vsurped the kingdome of England, and made warres on the faction of the Empresse. And thus *Henrie* the fourth infringed his first vowe, to steppe no further then the Dutchie of Lancaster: but when hee found no hinderances, hee quickly ranged ouer all other territories and iurisdctions. Sometimes hee dilates *Matchiuilian* policies, and telleth men that are cruell and ambitious, that they which meane to haue a smooth walke to contentment, yea to passe the time in any Orchard or Garden of pleasure, must not onely remooue the greater blockes, stickes, and stones: but as occasion serues, picke out the sharpe pibbles, and rowle the same smoother. Thus *Athaliah* destroyed the kings stocke to gaine the Diademe. And thus *Richard* the third, first remooued the *Queenes* kindred, after vsurped the persons of the two Princes. Sometimes hee whispereth in the eares of moderate kings, that they may bee iealous in pointes of soueraigntie; and who shall controwle them, if they settle their feares and peace, though they see the bleeding neckes of such as they feare? Thus *Adoniah* fell vnder his yonger brother. Thus *Nero* put *Corbulo* and *Germanicus* to death, because they were reputed worthie of the kingdome. Thus was *Mortimer* in *Henrie* the fourths time, as it were, banished from the Court. Thus was long before that, *Robert* Duke of *Normandie* deprived of his eyes. Thus was *Edward Plantagenet* Earle of *Warwicke* imprisoned and destroyed: with many such like. Sometimes hee maketh the iustifying of a faction, and the louing of one another, an honest cause of rebellion: As you saw in the Barons ~~Warre~~, in the beginning of *Henrie* the fourth, when the king should haue bene destroyed

destroyed at Oxenford, and afterward when the *Persies* maintayned the coadiutements of *Worcester* and *Mortimer*. Sometimes hee rayseth innouation and treason out of the circle of ambition and vaine-glory, vpon any pretence of a title, as you saw in the first claime of *Richard Plantagenet*, Duke of Yorke: and in the last tumults of the Earle of *Warrewicke*, in *Edward* the fourths time. Sometimes hee deceiueth honour with couetousnesse, and bogges the mindes of generous spirits with hope of increase of liuing, and augmentations of titles. Thus was the Duke of *Buckingham* caught in a snare of the Earledome of *Hertford*, and not onely stretched his arme out to helpe *Richard* the third to mount on the throne of Maiestie, against all religion and pietie: but to spreade the colours of his owne reuenge against the tyrant himselfe: whereby hee lost his head. Sometimes hee impostures men with the fanaticall hopes of diuellish promises from sorcerie, and witchcraft: As you may reade of *Elinor Cobham*, who well expected the preferment of the Protector her husband, and of ~~Stafford~~ Duke of *Buckingham*, whom the Cardinall ouerthrew in *Henry* the eights time. Somtimes hee bloweth the bellowes of popularitie, and swelleth men ouer bigge with the windy breath of opinion: as in diuers worthy presidents, and instances of our owne, wherein euen the best subiects haue yet taken a wrong course to curbe their Princes, and making good causes (as reformation of disorders, remoouing of euill Councellours, protecting of Iustice, and maintaining the honour of martiall discipline, &c. Baudes to wicked and troublesome spirits, haue in the ende pulled on death and insupportable affliction on themselves and families: and sometimes he inciteth euen cōmon persons to presumptuous darings

and dangerous troubles, falsifying their wicked pretences, on the glorious shewes of the kingdomes good, as in the Irish expeditions, the rebellions of *Straw*, and *Cade*: the wicked purpose of *Perkin Marbeck*: the clamours of *Ket*, the insurrections of the *North*, and such like: In all which, from the beginning to the ending, there is no one sound and substantiall reason, but must needs be ouerthrowne with the shoulderings of truth and vprightnes. And thus could I fill you volumes with precepts and instances, and both diuide and subdiuide to infinit particulars, wherein greatnes and pollicy resemble poison in the hearts of corrupt persons, which runneth from veine to veine, and neuer desisteth till all be infected: and at last the very life blood contaminated: Nay, I could haue spread your letter to a greater bredth, euen with modern examples, and daily positions: but I cannot name them without offence, and traducing of many of their imperfections and follies: and therefore I will leaue what I may not write, to a priuate relation, when we may meet with securitie.

Yours, to trust onely.

To her deereſt husband.

M*r onely life*, I may not write at large, nor one word but what another ouerſees: therefore I pray you conſider of me and your children, and how euer your vertue fill your heart with conſtancy; yet remember, that in all ages, and with all perſons, vertue doth not thriue alike; nor muſt a man proclaime all he knowes, or diuulge what he thinkes: ſo that there is no remedy for your enlargement, but a patient enduring, a politike ſilence, an humble ſubmiſſion, and plauſible caſting your ſelfe and cauſe into the lappe of the *Queenes* fauor, and vnder the ſhadow of that great Lords mantle. No more: neither I dare, nor muſt: but that I am and will be,

Your euer louing wife in diſtreſſe.

*Men muſt
ſubmit to
their fortune.*

To his ill aduised Sonne, T.G.

Most foolish and idle headed, I haue heard thee sometimes discourse of historicall relations, because I should strengthen my opinion, that thou hast not bene a truant at schoole, nor a traitor to nature, in ouerthrowing some good parts allotted as thy portion. But I wonder, that amongst the rest, thou dost not remēber a certain law of the *Lacedemonians* against disobedient children, who were publikely whipt, and when they continued refractory, they were despightfully hanged, as enemies to the commonwealth: so that if thy profuse expences, riotous courses, disobedient wilfulnesse, irregular conditions, dangerous company, and intemperate abusing the time, were in those dayes to follow thee to that barre of censuring, I should surely take no further care for thy punishment, nor feare for thy hereafter ouerthrow. But because thou liuest in a corrupt age and commonwealth, belike thou thinkest thy selfe disgraced, & out of the fashion, if thou be not corrupt too; nay monstrously wicked, & degenerating. For, what hope can I haue of the preservation of my estate and family after death, when thou darest presume in my life to carry an absolute sway against my prescriptions, and runne three hundred pounds in debt, to all our troubles; And if thou come to particulars, how bare and poorely will thy excuse seeme? how vgly and deformed will thy vanity appeare? I brought thee with a gentle hand to the study of the law, whereon both profite and honours depends: and thou hast not onely neglected the same; but with a kind of contempt and despight, abandoned thy study, and because we should be sure of thy hate and vilipending such a iewell, thou art bold to boast of pawning thy bookes, and that thou wilt not curbe a braue spirit,

A sonner apprehended for his disordered life.

spirit, (thou mayst say a diuellish ruffinlinesse) with stupid and dull inclosing thy selfe in a Cabinette, and poaring on harsh and vnpleasant lines. I taught thee a way to handsonnesse and ciuilitie, shewing thee (like a Father) the difference betweene pride and comelinesse: and thou art so farre from the modest vse of Gods creatures, in this kinde, that thou hast transhaped thy selfe with filthy disguises, of long-haire, diffused Apparell, coloured Bands, gaudie Ornaments, ridiculous fashions: yea, thy very heele and spurre-leathers shew the lightnes of thy minde, vanitie of thine affections, and deformities of both: So that from top to toe, the best excuse is the fashion: the best of these fashions so out of frame, that wisdom hateth them, and pietie pittie them. I instructed thee with the modest oratory of good demeanour, and how weakly they were armed, that stood at defiance, with patience and vertue, building a poore frame on the high exalted Title of valure: as though vice must either be carryed vp with the strong arme of robustiousnes, or coloured ouer with the sophistate paintings of good-fellowship; courage, not disparaging of Gentry: and that a man living in eminence and expectation of glorie, must not giue way to any discredite. But thou like a resty-iade, hast runne backwards, and affrighted thy owne good spirite, with fearfull blood-sheddings, quarrells, and contentions: exposing thy selfe to barren and beastly destructions, in despite of order, and good gouernment: So that I cannot compare that valour, which thou wouldst haue graced with such an *Epithite*, better then to the beautie of a strumpet, who is eyther mercenarie to all commers, or so kinde, that shee cannot gainsay any, asking the question: and at last, maketh her selfe abhorred or vilipended. There be other matters of offence wherewith I could loade you, but these for this time, shall startle you a little, and prepare you to
some

some better consideration, against I examine you further, or absolutely determine to shew you a stronger hand of reformation: therefore be aduised you were best, and if you dare forget I am your father, and must maintaine you: remembet you are a Christian; and liue vnder a religion and law, which will clip the wings of such licentiousnes, and deplume the feathers of all such consuming birds of prey.

Your displeased Father.

To her wilfull and seduced friend, M. G.

VNkinde, and ill aduised. To what purpose haue you made me beleue, that you neuer spake sentence, but loue ioyned the wordes: neuer breathed vow, but vertue instructed the heart: neuer performed action, but my worth was the *magnes* to draw you into industry: and yet you can bee contented to wipe away all with the slight hand of carelesnes, and to forsake me without a cause; yea, to despight me the more, to abandon a faithfull and true friend, for the beastly shew and loue of a strumpet, whose eies sparkle with deceit, & very smiles are more dangerous then Crocadiles teares, which commonly weepe ouer such, they meane to destroy. O that thou either hadst discovered this falshood before, whereby I might haue taken the way of better assurance, and conformable honesty; or wilt thou yet defend the poore troopes of chastity, against the mighty armies of incontinency and wantonnes? then should this wanton know, what it were to betray modesty into the handes of filthy vnconstancy, and to bring simplicity into the bondage of passion and affection. But I preethee let me dispute with thee a little: Haue I not seene thee laugh a fellow to scorne, as a buffone, or iester, for wearing great guilt rings full of coulerd glasses, garded cloaths, capons feathers, and a ridiculous aspect? and what

Loue findeth fault with inconstancy and follow a strumpet, who is desired.

H

is

is a strumpet, but suitable in euery thing? Haue I not read of a foole, that was led like an Oxe to the slaughter, and went in the shutting of the euening into the house of a strumpet? Haue I not heard thee tell the tale of a passenger, who comming ouer a dangerous water vpon a narrow bridge, being drunke, and returning the next day to see what aduenture hee had escaped, died with the apprehension? And what is a whores conuersation, but a sudden perill ouerpassed with feare and trembling? And so in infinite particulars; whereby it cannot choose, but either you are insensible of good, or desperate of all bad; otherwise you would not come within the reach of heauens vengeance, and vertues curses: I meane my owne poore cries, and teares, which if they once should be vented with bitterness of my soule, beleue it, they would preuaile with the God of mercy, to draw thee and thy perfidiousnesse into the house of vengeance, for thy cruelty & mischieuous abusing so constant, and innocent a friend.

Your poore abused Friend.

To his much disordered Friend, F.M.

*Against
swearing and
common oaths.*

Good Sir, If I were not tyed by the band of friendship, to all those duties, wherein honest men are, or should be actors; yet am I bound by the lawes of Christianitie to pleade Gods cause, and not to suffer (as farre as in me lies) so great a iustice to be ouerthrowne with the violent thrust of desperate and irreligious shouldrings. To what end then dare you so prophane the name of God? or to what purpose do you breath out the smoke of oathes, yea common periuries? as if the sulphure of that infernall furnace, were raised vp to darken the light of the firmament. Doe you know what danger you incurre? the vengeance prepared, the threatnings denounced, and the punishments appro-

appropriate to such idle and defiling wantonnesse? Do you not reade, that you shall be guilty before Gods seate, for taking his name in vaine? Doth not the Prophet tell you, that plagues shall inuade that house, where the swearer remaineth? Hath not our Sauior instructed vs, with yea, and nay? shewing plainly, that whosoever digresseth out of that path, walketh to perdition. And are not the Apostles the voyces of many waters, and the sounds of Gods trumpets against further irreligion, and vndecent oathes? And how dare you then continue in horrible prophanation, and either not beleue, or not apprehend this truth? Besides, if Sathan had taught vs cunning enough to excuse other vices: The glutton may say, he is a hungred: the vncleane person, he is ready to burne: the couetous man, he is afraid to want: the murtherer, reuenge is sweete: the drunkard, that his drought is great: the theefe, that he is in distresse, and such like. But the swearer hath neither reason, nor excuse for his idlenesse: no man enforceth him, the flesh inticeth not, the world prouoketh not, onely custom and the diuell raise a commotion against pietie and sincerity. So that it is almost come to passe, that a swearer and a lier moue in the same orbe of incredulity, and as the shepherds ranne so often in vaine to the boy, that told them the Wolfe was come into the fold, that when he came indeed, they did not beleue him. So doth euery man abandon a swearer in his most vrgent occasions, because vnurged he made no conscience of an oath. Therefore, if not for Gods loue, Christian duety, sweetnesse of conuersation, and assurance of our contracts & friendship; yet for feare of hell, and in regard of saluation, let mee diuert you from this horrible, and hatefull vice.

Yours, in reformation.

To her miserable rich Friend, P.D.

Against cou-
etousnesse.

SIR, Although it appertaineth not to our sexe to take the rodde of restraint into our hands, and seeme free Denizons in the kingdome of wisedome, & good counsell, more then men: yet because I am engaged for you to that honourable Lady: & ser open the enclosure of your praises from my owne iudgement, and experience of your worth: I must needes presume (beyond your expectation) and craue pardon, if I seeme to haue a more daring confidence in this reprehension. To what ende then haue you cast durt and filth into the streame of your spirit, where a confluence of many vertues make a flood of perfection, and euen now, when a very mizer should set at large his hard-bound heart for expences, haue damned vp the same, with the mudde of auarice: you that haue carryed away good opinion with you in times past for courteous, affable, courtly, well-descended, free, noble, and (aboue the rest) a liberall Gentleman: now to make a stoppe, and darken all that lustre with a miserable sparing, and niggardly conuersation. And when in a time of professing loue, which seemeth to shed teares at your degenerating condition, and to whom? to a Ladie of honour and iudgement: whose very presence may command presents and extraordinary expences; and where? in both your countreys, where reproach stands watching for any occasion, and enuious eyes behold you with repining, and would faine looke iustly awry vpon the least deformity. Be therefore (good *Sir*) better aduised, and remember, that in religion couetousnesse is resembled to Idolatrie: in Philosophy, to all wickednesse, and overthrow of the best resolutions: in moralitie, to the dropsie, an insatiate disease, which the more corruption it hath, the

more it desires: in ciuill conuersation, to a nastie combersomnesse, which terrifieth one another, and breaketh the band of true friendship. Alas, what doe you gaine by vnnearable hoording vp of wealth? but a base report, and a ridiculous pointing at, euen as you ride along. Nay, you shall be compared to a barking Dogge at cattle, feeding on hay, which will neither let them take a repast, nor can helpe himselfe to satisfie nature. O, good Sir, though I am no Scholler, yet can I reade what other men doe write: and of all the vices which are enemies to a quiet soule, and free borne Gentleman, couetousnesse is the worst, basest, and most ridiculous. For, besides that, it detaineth vs from the ciuill vse of Gods blessings in the world, so that neither in diet, nor ornament, a man is master of himselfe: it maketh vs vnapt to the entertainment of such vertues, as commonly helpe vs out of the filthy puddles of disreputation, & keepe vs secure from calumniation, and bewitching corruption of profite: therefore, for honours sake, for vertues sake, for friendships sake, for my sake, for your owne sake, for posterities sake, remember where about you goe, and how a good and freedemeanour will preuaile, when these hard enclosed hands seeme rather to threaten stroakes, then promise hopefull entertainment.

Yours, if you can be mine.

To her vnkinde Friend, R.S.

SIR, I perceiue by my selfe, that poore and vnfortunate persons may well be resembled to threatening tempests, from whose violence euery man seeketh a present shelter: else would one neuer haue bene so discourteous, as to haue denied me a small request, or continued your despight, in

*Against deni-
all of trifles
amongst friends
and feare of
combersom-
nesse.*

abandoning my companie, for feare of comberfomenesse, or importuning you to more, then your owne free-will should condiscend vnto. Is this the law of friendship? Or what doe you imagine can bee the ende of such vnkindnesse? Who taught you such rules? Or can humanitie thinke well of such peruersnes? Well, I am a woman, and therefore will be so farre from immodesty, that I will impute it to my ill deseruing, not your bad disposition: but if I were a man, howeuer I disclaime quarrels, I would make this a matter of complaint, wherein if your wit did not winde you out, by the scrue of sufficiēt excuse, it should surely turne to displeasure, and cause other maligne circumstances to threaten you further. Therefore from henceforth I will bee so farre from louing you, that I will hate my selfe, for deceiuing my kinde hart in affecting so vnkinde a friend. And thus I bid you fare-well; yea, to fare as well as I did, in the want of that I write for, and the discomfort I endured, to think how ill I had bestowed my first liking.

Yours, if you will haue it so.

To his ill respected friend.

*Against idle
excuses.*

Suspicious sir, what cause haue I giuen you to deny your selfe? or how could I deserue so ill at your hands, as to driue you frō your own house, whē you were lockt in your study? belike you thought I came to borrow mony, or beg a dinner, in neither of which, a friend, & such a friend as I presumed you to be, by reasō of your own protestatiōs, ought to be denied: which makes me remember, a tale in the *Italian* courtier, of a gētl: who cōming to aske for his friēd, was only answered by a seruāt, *he was not within*: whervpō (for his better intelligence) he departed satisfied in shewe, till

ill some occasion directed the other to demand for him: whereupon he answered aloud in his owne behalfe, hee was gone from home: Not so sayd the other; for I heare your voyce, and know it too well to be mistaken. But (sayd he againe) you are a strange man, I beleeued your maide when she told me you were not within: And are you so incredulous, that you will not beleue my selfe? But, as I remember, there hath bene no such passages betweene vs; therefore I wonder at this sodaine dispatch, and cannot be perswaded, but you wish a dissolution of our combined loues. For (my owne part) I will not come to the house of my friend to receiue any affront of deniall; and he that wil take occasion of sequestration, to make such a man of my condition stand without doores, is not worthy to reioyce in true neighbourhood, though there had bene a wanton in your armes, or any Bagge a telling.

Yours, if you be worthy.

To the worthy Lady, R.C.

Good Lady, If your honour and vertue resemble not the *primum mobile*, of the Spheres; to carry about the lesser circles of our duty and obseruation: I see no reason why a generous and free borne Gentleman, should betray the cause of GOODNES into the hands of GREATNES, with degenerating conditions. For, to what end hath a voyce from heauen proclaimed the Godhead of Princes, and higher aduanced persons; but to resemble thē in perfection, and highly exalted vertues? as for shews and outward ceremonies, they bee meere'y tumors of vanity, pride, & ambitious desires, and the best of your liues may be cōpared to a gaudy maske at Christmas, which if it cany more state, & last a litle longer in the kings court, then another place; yet must it haue a melan choly farewell, & is

Against pride and tyrārous behaviour in great persons

is forgotten, like water spilt out of a Bucket: whereas affability, pious inclination, liberall compensation, regard of the afflicted, raising the weake, mercy, compassion, and such like, be indeed faire resplendant starres, worth praise and obseruation; from whose influence can proceed nothing, but auspicious presages; and are sure to make you famous to posterity, euen from the mouthes of widowes and orphanes, when your painted sepulchers shall lye trodden to dust, and your proudest edifices be turned to other vses. Be not therefore good Lady, so transported with passion, or open eard to euery flattering insinuating groome, that I shall neuer be heard in my iustifications, though worthy to claime my owne, nor enioy such priuiledges and immunities, as my auncestors haue filed on record to their owne credit, and posterities immitation. For belecue it, there is no such corasue to a gentle minde, as to be de- ceiued in the expectation of anothers worth, and where he hoped of support and countenance, to be menaced with threatnings, and contracted browes, which if you saw, how ill they became your louelines and beauty, you would quickly admit of a sweeter cheetfulness, and make me happy with a plausible alteration.

Yours, as a louer of honor.

To his seruant, F. M.

*Foolishnes
and disho-
nesty in a ser-
uant condem-
ned.*

Although I haue plentiful matter of reprehending you afforded me, yet will I onely at this instant redeeme your foolishnes, and dishonesty: foolishnes, in winding your selfe further into such intricate busines, then either your cunning or strength can help you out of dishonesty: in conuerting the mony appointed to generall imployment to your owne aduantage, whereby the Tenants are disabled, my selfe discredited, and you stand vnder the burthen

burthen of my as iust (and peradventure) heavy displeasure. Therefore, I charge you take some other course, and that sodainly, to prevent a further account and aggrauatiō thereof; or you shall finde, that as I can be a kinde Master, so I know how to punish a lesse grosse crime, and make you an obedient seruant.

To his miserable and most wretched sonne, R.B.

T *Hou cupshot, stain to my name, & torture to my thoughts,*
 All the while I looked on the filthy & menstrous cloth of thy vices, I remēbred the story of the old man of *Lions*, who enquiring after his sons misdemeanours, with a fond partialitie, began to cloud them with one excuse or another; as that gouernement and discretion would moderate his riot, time would coole his blood, and danger of the law terrifie him from swaggering: marriage and the attractive condition of a good wife would diuert him from lasciuiousnesse, with such like: till vnderstanding hee was a drunkard, he wrong his hands, & washt them with teares, as desperat of his recouery. For in this vice, custome & age are so forcible, that men are so far frō reformation, as they grow from bad to worse, & from worse, to be loathsome to theselues and al ciuil company. So played I with thee, and dried vp thy mother cheekes with my kisses, kept her rage from desperate furie with excuses; held her hands from wringing with sweet perswasions; shewed her instances of many licentious yong men redused to gouernment, till we heard of this eruption of bestiality, past all limitation, or hope of amendment: A drunkard! that I haue liued to see this day, and my owne shame and disgraces ripened in thy rottennesse. Let mee tell thee, how the *Lacedemonians* were woont to do, after they had found a drunkard wallowing in the durt, and (like a Swine) besmee-
 I

*Against
drunkenesse.*

besmeered in his filthines', to bring forth their children, to beget in them a deadly detestation of the spectacle they beheld. But how? that if any fore-warned, and by such exēplary cautions terrified, fell into the bogges of such by-wayes, out of the tract of Temperance, and pathway of discretion, they were publicly whipt: but I am afraid thou wilt serue me like the beastly younker of *Strasbourg*, who when his father led him to such a spectacle, where besides the loathsomnes of the party wallowing in his vomit, the ridiculousnes of the action, set the spectators on worke, to the clapping their hands, and extraordinary iollitie: was so farre from misliking of the same, that hee onely demaunded, where the good wine was, which had made the good man in such a taking. And wilt thou serue me so indeed? Are the pleasant voyces of my fatherly instruction discords vnto thee? Is there no remedy, but I must see thee irrecoverably plunged in a quagmire of so loathsome a vice? Oh that I might rather see thy death, then this disorder; and cease to bee a Father, then to haue so vntoward a sonne. My prayer is, Eyther mend, or end: And so I leaue thee. *Your Father, if you be sober.*

To her unkinde Husband.

V*retched* and miserable man: How darest thou lift vp thy Adulterate eyes to heauen, and behold the pure and christalline Firmament, wherein that euerlasting Law-giuer sits in Triumph, against the day of vengeance, to iudge such perseuerāt delinquēts, as thy self? or dost thou imagine, that those strict duties (commanded from the beginning) were but matters of pollicie? or that position of man & wife, being one flesh, was meerly breath and exhalation? Surely it must needs bee so with *Atheists* and prophane liuers; And I am afraid to the hereafter horror of thy

*Against the
breach of
wedlocke in
a man.*

thy soule, that thou wilt tumble into the pit of burning lasciuiousnes: from whence it is easier to be kept frō falling, then once fallen, to recouer out. But O foole, looke againe with brighter eyes, and reade with more iudicious vnderstanding: the lips of a whore are as sweete as honie, to the taste of fooles; but in her heart is the sting of scorpions, yea, the poyson of aspes, lies vnder her lips: and wilt thou then aduenture the stinging, when there is no *Cataplasme* for the soare? Wilt thou forget the honest wife of thy youth, for a disloyall and impudent stranger? Wilt thou despise thy children, resembling oliue branches about thy Table, being buds of the Blessings promised a good man, for Bastards plants, which the hand of Diuine Iustice will soone roote out? wilt thou runne into the sincke of lustfull confusion, that maist trace the faire walks of contentment, with chaste embracings? Oh doe not so I charge thee: nay, by the contracts to our first vowes, I coniure thee, returne to the pleasant springs of our amity: and I will wash thee cleane againe, and make thee sweete, with teares and kisses of a louing wife.

Your true wife, in your vntrath.

To his periurde and lasciuious wife.

Thou forsworne wretch: To what end hast thou prostituted thy selfe to filthinesse, & abandoned the strong and certaine supportation of grace, for the momentarie ticklings of pleasure: so that by this filthy dashings of lusts lothsome chariots, we are all bemyred, deformed, & made odious to the world: thy selfe art branded for a strumpet, and in the best excuse but a brokē glasse, neuer to be set together againe. I am made a by-word, & a pointing-stocke; not that the disloyalty of a whore can ouerthrow the reputation of a vertuous & honest man: but because corrupted times haue taught men a mischieuous lesson, of taunts & contēptuous scorning: thy children appeare not but with

*Against
whorodom, in
the woman.*

suspicious faces; and I dare not looke vpon them for feare some harsh news should whisper in mine eare their bastardy: our friends and acquaintance dare not meete without murmuring; and me thinks I heare them say, what shall we do in the house of shame, and eate at the table of incontinency? Oh that thou hadst remembered *Judah* against *Thamar*, that she should be burnt for playing the whore; & yet a widow, and before the law: But when the *Iewes* were reduced to obedience, adultery was punished with death. But me thinks I heare the diuell to prompt thee, that they which dare aduenture their soules, dare hazzard their liues: and now it is not so strict as it was in the time of the law: For Christ himselfe forgauē the woman taken in adultery, and we liue in a commonwealth far from such extremity. Is this your sophistry? take heede of coufening your owne soule, and deceiuing the trust which Christ hath reposed in thee, making thee therby partaker of his pretious blood, and thy own redemption. But how? neither to spill the one by casting it abroad with vncleane and polluted hands; nor betray the other by conspiring with presumptuous finners, to rebel against grace, repentance, & newnes of life; wherein if thou dost not examin thy selfe, & prepare to better conformity, I need not breath out vengeance against thee, or seek a greater iustice, then thy mischeeuous will, & vnpenitent life shall pull vpon thy disguised shamelesse face, and defiled mishapen soule.

Your husband if you do not diuide him.

Excusing Letters.

To his best Friend, G.L.

Good Sir, I would not haue you stagger in your opinion of me, considering I haue alwaies with an vpright hand held vp the beame of our friendship: & would neuer giue my heart leaue to entertaine a thought of politicke

mis-

*Excuse for
not lending
money.*

misdoubt, either of your abilitie or honesty. For the very name of a friend shal cōmand my person, much more my goods: but such a man as your selfe hath interest in my life & spirit. Therefore beleue it, I was so destitute of mony at that time, that casting vp an irkesome 'account of my brothers departure, necessity enforced the pawning of my utensels to furnish him; wherein if any experience, or example haue taught my tung the cūning of excuses, let it hereafter grow too big for my mouth, & when my wants knock at the doore for supply, let hands of Adamant admit them no entrance to my insupportable afflictions. But wheras you lay a further imputation vpon me, that my credit caried an ouerswaying command of my rich neighbor: true it is, that in former times, as Doves resort to glistering painted houses; as Farmers bring their seed into fat ground; as Beasts & cattle resort to feeding places; & as all the world is transported with priuat respect, I carried vp a head of thriuing wantonnes, & he looked vpon me with a correspondent alacrity, but no sooner came the pulling hooke to throw down the fruit of my fertile trees, wherby he perceiued the boughs bare, and saw the knots and branches battered in peeces: but he suspected my prosperity, and added withall a fearefull prophesie of hereafter canker-eating, & decay both of root and rinde. Thus are my hopes abortiue concerning my interest in him: & to speake the truth, I am so fearefull of a deniall, that I had rather sit still with some ease, then rise and fall with vtter dispaire. Thus if I haue wonne the field against your incredulitie, and brought vp preuailing forces to strengthen your loue, and good will still on my side: I am then my selfe againe, and protest I reioyce more truely in your sweete conuersation, then a wanton could doe, if his mistresse were to hang about his necke with deceiueable kisses, and counterfeit embraces. For they cōmonly resemble the Yuy, running vp

a tower with dangerous loosening the stones, when true friendship is like *Atlas* and *Hercules*, supporting of the heaven of prosperitie, and life from falling, yea from failing.

Your iustifiable Friend.

To his Honourable, L.G.

Excuse for being importunate in the behalfe of a friend.

Honourable Lord, Whereas I vnderstand, that you excepted against my last importunitie, as if I transcended the bounds of good manners; and abased your greatness with carrying too slight a respect toward you; I hope I shall finde you so fauourable, both to admit of my iustifiable excuses, and to distinguish betweene presumption and necessitie. Wherefore I pray you, remember the story of *Aurelianus* the Emperour, who once proclaimed a stately sequestration of his person from common intruders, inhibiting all soldiers and subiects, to aduance themselves in his presence for any suit whatsoever: Yet notwithstanding, when a Captain had infringed the edict, and was attached by the guard to receiue a condigne punishment; the Emperour stepped forth, and sayd, if hee come for himselfe let him die; if he determine for his friend, let him be released. In like manner doe I ouerthrow this objection at the first charge, & besides your Lordships apprehension, say plainly, that if I had not bene tyed by the laws of friendship, to expose vnto you the desires of another, I wold not haue diuerted you frō more serious affairs, by my tedious discourse, and ynmanerly importunitie. And thus making no doubt of your worthy and noble disposition toward a man, that doth study nothing, but to loue and honour you, I commit my selfe to that part of your vertue, which can make extention of pardon and fauour, as I haue done of submission and dutie.

Yours, as you will be mine.

To her over suspicious Friend.

Good Sir, I am not ignorant, how the Poets haue inuented a marriage betweene *Cupid* and *Iealousie*: and true loue is many times seasoned, and made sweeter by prettie contradictions, and softly raised suspicion: but to be ouer-vehement in accusation, and absolutely to conclude a negative by fond supposes and cruell constructions, are beyond my reason, & your faire demeanour. For, be it, I went to the play with my sister, I endured the maske, I danced the measures: I will not much stand vpon the commendations of such customary practise: Yet was there any thing here worthy the traducing? or could a Gentlewoman doe lesse, considering the circumstances and commanding maiestie of the place? But you will obiekt, that fancy now settled, and the minde contented with anothers controule: it was idly done to goe at all. I could say so too; if a mothers well-wishes, a sisters importunitie, a solemne festiuall, a time of reuels: and aboue all, a presumption of your noble disposition and free hearted discretion, had not mustred themselues farre stronger then my weake denials: wherewith at first I came so forward, that they wondred at my mortification, and sware it was a counterfeite retiring to more dangerous businesse. Besides, I was not (as I take it) vnder any penalty of infringing your will, you not imposing such a taske on me: nor would I be so absolute a slaue, though the name of husband and wife had linked vs together with the Churches ceremonies. Be therefore I pray you satisfied with my iustificable excuses, and belecue it; I will rather forswear the hopes of mariage, and the glory of costly ornaments, before I will leaue you againe in such an hell of affrighting ieaousie.

Excuse for
keeping com-
pany, and go-
ing to court.

Yours, so you be resolu'd.

To

To her iealous Friend.

Excuse for
taking shel-
ter in a
shower of
raine, with
a strange
gentleman.

S*uspicious Syr*: I perceiue that ignorance is many times a mistrisse of quietnes, and too much learning laieth the heart open to leaud example, and idle instances. Thus because you haue read of the Hunting which *Dido* prepared for *Aeneas*, and that opportunitie, and a strange accident brought them to an Amorous encounter, in that solitary caue (whither they retired) to auoid the peril of the storme: therefore must I be suspected, for that at the last Hunting I met with S. G. in the thicket, and not able then to indure the shower, mounted vp into the stand: If there were no other excuse then necessitie, and the accidentall proffer of ciuill curtesie, me thinkes it might carry credite with vnderstanding: but least I cannot handsomely gather together my forces to satisfie you, I will tell you true: There came both my brother, and his man, to preuent any ouerflowings of a wanton tongue, or idle conference: so that wee were so farre from any occasion of Loues encountering, that we were glad to shake our hattes, and wring our cloathes, for feare of catching colde: yet say, that the accident had preuented other company: hath the opinion of his worth, so ill a ground in your thoughtes, that you can so quickly cast it out from any sound rooting? Or am I such a truand in the schoole of modesty, that you stand in doubt of my loytering, or at least of my insufficiencie, to proue an honest proficient? But I will answer for you, it is loues fault and not yours: and there can be no good will, where many questions arise not to contrarieties: yea, sometimes to distastings, & fallings out: which if it be so, I am contented to offer my Taper, at the altar of his deitie, and hope to finde you the faster hereafter, by letting mee lose a little, and giuing some small liberty to the feares of my losse, and prouing counterfeit.

Tours in her very thoughts.

To

To his worthy Friend, Sir I. D.

SIR, it pleased mee much, that you supposed mee over shadowed with the high exalted fauor of such a Queen, who as shee is the mirrour of all ages, for her magnificent gouernmēt: so is she the presidēt of all actions for her vertues & maiesticall properties. But withall, you must cōsider the condition of her greatnesse, and the custome of Princes, who doe not allow of too much easinesse in accessse, or facility in subscribing to petitions, for feare of diminishing the glory of their pallaces, and making vs carelesse in our seruice and obseruation. Therefore I pray you bee resolved, that I neglect no opportunitie to inferre your former merit, and present aptnesse to the place, nor found her any way obdurate, more then in her plaine resolution you might tarry a while: As for that imputation, that I was tempted with a thousand angels to speake for D.C. and so bare you in hand to feele *Esans* roughnesse, when yet *Iacobs* voyce was deceitfull: do not belecue it. And let one protestation serue for all, that no man but your selfe shall alter my iourney to her Maiestie: nor any businesse but this set the loome of my industry a worke, till the web of your preuailing be dispatched: or at least, what I can warpe out, made vp accordingly: as for the report, or, if you will, suggestion of your murmuring, that you attended ouer-long, and yet went away not speaking with me: I can assure you, the fault depended not on my greatnesse, or willingnesse to distast any man, much lesse your selfe, who are as welcome to me as any man: and (if I might speake it without flatterie) in a farther degree of acceptation with me then any man: but meerey the misprision of your person from the groome, that turned the key: who mistaking you for another, which had reuiled him, put this poore trick of

Excuse for
not dispatching a suite
of importāce,
according to
expectation
& promise.

K

revenge

revenge vpon you to make you beleue, I was busie, when I neither knew of your being without, nor would haue had any businesse, to haue ouerborne my respect toward you if I had knowne it. If this may draw toward a satisfaction, & keep you frō contracting a brow of displeasure against me, I am proud we shall agree, and glad there was occasion of this pretie contradiction.

Yours in despite of suspicion.

To his louing wife, B.G.

*Excuse for
tarrying too
long from a
wife.*

M*Y onely beloued*, I am now to deale with a woman, that can spread the mantle both of loue and discretion. Of loue, not to giue way to any sinister and indirect conceit for my tarrying so long from you. Of discretion to apprehend the difficult passages, wherein Court-suters traueerse their grounds, and are sometimes like a ship vnder saile, ready to enter the hauens of their desires, driuen farre backe by contrary gusts, into the troublesome and turbulent Ocean of crosses & vnexpected changes. Thus as you haue often told me your selfe, are men sometime protracted, examined, promised, denied, and many times affronted with competitors, whose particeans would gladly preferre their friends before a strangers. But for the giuing raines to any extrauagant and licentious corruption, either for incontinency, gaming, or pleasure, more then what the better sort of men may draw me along vnto by the cords of conuersation, doe not beleue it, though it should be reported; nor report it, though some vntoward suspicion may hasten you to beleefe in this kinde. And thus relying on your wisdom, more then my owne fortunes or good merit, I commend these ciuill excuses to your fauourable construction, and commit that little, which the poore remainder of my discretion hath compassed to your care and gouernment.

Your husband resolved.

To his loued louing wife, C.G.

M*R dearest and best beloued,* Although your vnsauorie letters are framed on the foundation of vnkindnesse, so that you seeme to iustifie the aduancing the pile of your grudges and repinings vpon good occasions inforced: yet I hope by that time I haue filled your eares, and impressed your heart with honest excuses, you will quietly gather together the disperced forces of your care and dutie to afright misreport and sinister vnderstanding. First the concerning the money to be paide to your cousen; I was so far from receiuing it then, that there is no hope euer to haue it hereafter. Concerning the not accompanying your brothers in his suites, and attending with him in the court, you know how vnsauory such a seruitude is vnto the freedome of my spirit; and how vntoward he is in his spleenfull wilfulnesse, otherwise I wil ride, run, or go, yea lacky by him to doe him good: but to make my selfe seruile vpon euery occasion, and waite on those daies, wherein no busines is determined, cannot stand with policie or discretion. Concerning the not hauing the things from the Mercer, whereby you thinke your selfe more then forgotten, yea forsaken and vilipended; I answer truely, there is but one you know, to the warmth of whose bosome I can re-
paire, and he being out of towne, I cannot presume on any other: so that forbearance being no quittance, you must bee contented to attend a more thriving howre. Concerning the sending your sonne ouer, there is no hope of him in any befitting courses of a man. For all

*Excuse for
not dispatch-
ing of busines*

that he practiseth is meerely repugnant to vertue, and my willingnesse to see him doe well; As for sauoring martiall affaires, some vnciuill and erronious report hath affrighted him with painfull marches and watchings, hard lying, vnpleasant fare, carelesse regard, (what hunger or sicknesse euer chance:) and aboue all, slight entertainment, with sudden steppings before him, through the fauour of Letters, or Officers, of men inferior to his supposes, and presumption of his owne worth. Therefore I can doe no more, then speake to the Capt: and engage my selfe for his attendance, draw out extraordinary promises of respecting him, & encourage him what I may: but hee being a backe retirer, and pleading insufficiencie of body, I haue left it, without further vexation: howeuer I could for your sake enforce my vnwillingnes; and considering his vnsupportable humors, to set him on foote, to preuailing according to his owne desires.

Your carefull Husband.

To his best, and Noble Lady.

*Excuse for
not writing
& attending,
vnwilling
persons to bee
spoken with.*

MR best Lady, whereas you wonder at my slacknesse in writing: & attendance of your Father, without complement or ceremonie; I answer both thus: The best letters resemble but the passage of a Shippe, who leaueth behinde no impression of her course; and if they sauour of cumberfomnes, they seem as poyson represented in a golden cup: so that howeuer we entertaine the thing containing, we quickly reiect what may be noysome to the taste, and dangerous to the stomacke: As for my personall performing my dutie; Shall I now walke in a Hall, that was wont to come vp stayres, without controwle? Shall I now be afraide to speake to a groome, who will smile in my face,

face, and bring counterfeit excuses to my fight? Shall I betray my vertue to basenesse, when he is willing to make his greatnes to looke bigge vpon mee? Shall I come to a man ennobled with report, who yet disableth his worth, by a womans malice? Oh, I may not doe so! For though hee can strike away the secrets of friendship with a commanding hand, I may not forget the properties of a man, the libertie of my life, the royaltie of my profession: So that till I can recouer my pristine glorie, and iollity of familiaritie, I will submit to these disasters, and make this vnworthy banishment, the author of Contemplation, and triall of affliction: In which, if my prayers ascend like a smoake of a sweete-smelling Sacrifice, I will thanke the God of comfort, for his Fatherly correction; and remember in the same, that you may flourish in the worlde, like a faire fruitfull Tree, and prosper in your desires: as if *Iacobs* seede did sowe in the Land of *Abimelech*: where hee receiued an hundred for one. As for your Mother, I wish her the blessings of *Rahel* and *Lea*: to be honored of her Husband, reuerenced by her Children, esteemed of her Neighbours, famosed by strangers, respected of Friends, and aboue all, loued of *G O D*; who will neuer leaue to loue such as vnderstand, what true loue importeth.

Yours, though I thinke not.

To his Honourable Friend, Syr G. L.

Worthy Syr, I am loath to vse a further preamble with you, then may stand in equall poysse with your iudgement, and my dutie: yet because I would not seeme too peremptory, in iustifying my selfe, I will confesse, that vertue looketh with a more confident aspect, in the maintaining a well gotten possession, then in the first Fortune of kinde embraces: so that I infer according to your own

*Excuse for
not forbear-
ing a friend,
presuming to
disgrace ano-
ther.*

proposition, that there is more cunning in keeping, then getting a Friend. But withall, if a Friend will so presume on the weaknesse of another, to tye him ouer-strictly to obseruation, or burden him with intollerable impositions, because there hath passed vpon him some descendings of gratuities: I see no reason to curbe his manhood, or libertie in such a fashion: especially, if the standers by be ignorant of their combination, or iealous that hee is subiect to some maligne circumstances of Fortune or Time: and thus much in generall. Now to the particulars: As you wonder at my repugnancie, and absolute contradicting your arguments in the last conference: I maruell that you would so apparantly maintaine such a *Paradox*: and amongst all the rest, draw mee into the circle of wrastring with our wittes, whereby either I must cowardly leaue poore truth in the hands of venomous, and corrupted *Sophystrie*: or fearfully bring my preuailing forces forward, to foyle your vnderstanding & iudgement; whereby, in the contention, friends must needs fall out: whereas you wonder that I would hazard your loue, by so sudden a deniall, of such an easie commaund, wherein better and greater Friends neuer disputed.

I maruell why you should at that time, aboue all others, and before such persons, burst out to shewe your greatness and power ouer mee, or discouer my weaknesse, onely to be insulted on, when you had attendants of your owne for seruile businesse; or might haue made some groome an actor in the same, to preuent all exceptions? Otherwise I sweare for honourable purposes, when the whole bodie shuld be exposed to your seruice, I would not haue denyed the Legges from going of an errand into the Kitchin for you. Whereas you wonder that I departed discontented, without ceremony, or making you once acquainted, when
all

all the companie wished mee well, and expected a conclusion of the discourse. I maruell both at your putting mee to it, before such curious cares, and solid iudgements, and at the strange entertainmēt of a man, whom you know could not looke vpon mee, but with Basiliskes eyes: nor I endure him, without dislike and discontent. Therefore to preuent vntoward disturbance, and to scatter my iealousie abroad, least it should gather a head of assurance, that you did it of purpose; I left you to murmur at my vnmannerlines, but pleased my selfe in a supposed preuention of further mischief. Thus, if these sad lines haue better fortune then their maister, it may be you wil admit of them as excusatory, and of mee in them, as willing to please you in noble and iustifiable actions.

Your seruant and assured.

To his suddenly displeased Friend.

Good Syr; you saw at the beginning, that the diuell was so enuious of mans felicity, that hee neuer desisted, till the bands of his first contract were dissolued, & the hope of saluation abandoned: and so hath hee continued euer since, as an aduersary to all goodnes, and vertuous dispositions; whereof (euen at this instant) I am a poore witnes, and in this foyle, which our friendship is likely to receiue an vnhappy instance: else could not you haue demanded the onely thing I haue forsworne: nay, am legally bound to take heede of: nor I haue denied you any thing which might seem dissonāt to our contract: so that I request you, with tears (if a man can shed them without ridiculousnes) make triall of mee, if it stood with the secrets of our loue, in any thing (Surety-ship excepted,) commaund my person, rifle my goods, pawne my Leases, open my purse, and take whatsoeuer I call mine: but to drawe mee
and

and my posteritie into the terrour of bondage : Nay, to fasten, and (as it were) to sigillate, and affixe vs to the vnmercifulnesse of men, and crueltie of Cut-throats, is so terrible to a poore estate, that I start at the naming of a Statute, and am afraide of mine owne shadowe, least my hand should bee counterfeit. For, I haue knowne the debt discharged, and for want of honesty in some, & cunning in others, to cancell the Recognysance, a new enformation hath made a hurliburly in the family : and the Law hath claimed for the *Prince*, against all prescription of time, & releases of men : because the record was a liuing voyce : and ecchoed out, you must discharge the debt againe : Therefore I request you, let not this denyall make any breach against the fortification of our loue : nor let the banks of our friendship bee so slightly cast vp, that so small an Inundation shall eyther ouerflowe the same, or burst downe with violence, that which we once presumed was strong enough against most impetuous shouldrings, eyther of Riuer, or Seas.

Yours, when you commaund.

To his well resolved Friend.

*Excuse for
not entertai-
ning a friend,
as hee ought
to bee.*

Good Syr; let it not seeme strange vnto you, that I neither durst bidde you welcome : nor open my mouth with so pleasing a voyce as the harmonie of our hearts was wont to tune together. For you know I am subiect to an others controull, and this name of a seruant, hath in me ouermastred the condition of a Friend : so that I can but curse the occasion, when first my *Lord* let in an ill opinion of your worth, into the closet of his former affection, and blame that ominous night of feasting, which ended so mischieuousty, to distast you both : but I hope time will eyther weaken these inflictions, or your faire demeanor work vpon

vpon a better Anuile of constancy, and regard of vertuous noblenes in you both; so that I shall performe the part of a Friend, in working your reconciliation: and you the part of a wise man, in giuing way vnto some humors, that otherwise might confound all our quietnes. Be therefore (I pray you) your selfe, and pardon me a while: if my dutie to him restrain me a little, from running too violently in the race of our friendship: otherwise bee assured, that no other restraint could keepe mee from flying into your armes, and prostrating my selfe to your second commaund in any thing.

Yours when mine owne.

To his well deserving Friend.

M*ost deare Friend:* If I could preuent my disgraces, as well as I can excuse my bad disposition, you should neither complaine, nor I bee terrified with feare of my vtter ruine: therefore I pray you bee satisfied with this assured confidence of my loue, that I neither opposed to your brothers peremptorinesse, out of any pride of my owne, or willingnes to ouer-thwart him: nor crossed your mother in her peeuish insultings ouer my decayed estate, from any preiudicated malice, or desire of contradiction: but meerely to countenance the cause of vertue, and establish the right of truth: Therefore I pray you consider of mee, and as you were wont, maintaine that olde goodnes which hath made you famous to all well-willers, and mee happie in your worthines and kindnesse. For to come to particulars, who could haue sworn, that vertue was seldom or neuer innated in a poore person, or of mean condition: if he had said, it was little esteemed, as the wise man maintaineth, that wisdom in a poore man, maketh a slender oratory, it had carried some reasonable colour of argument: but to discharge it quite from the seruice of in-

*Excuse for
not soothing
up of humors.*

L

feriour

ferior persons, is meerly swellings of pride, contempt, and filthy desires. Again, whereas your mother resolved that no estimation could arise to any man, but from an aggeration of wealth, and raising his Fortunes from land and great estates, I had reason to sweare they were both base & corrupt positions, from ignoble and degenerating burslings out of frailty: So that howeuer the duties of a childe may restrain you from publike condemning your mothers wilfull esteeming of the world, before religion, or a brothers pitiful opinion of true vertue indeed: I hope you know better how to raise vp the frame of goodnes, & when it is raised, to keepe the possession against all disseasures, or intrusions of sinne and wickednes.

Yours assured.

Requesting Letters

To his honourable Lord: The L. C.

*A request to
requite a
discourtesie.*

Right Honourable, In those poeticall fictions, such were the prerogatiues of deitie, that whatsoever one god confirmed, no other would disallow: nor by any contradictory courses, weaken the reuerence due to their sufficiencie. So that if *Teresias* were stricken blinde, there was no restoring of his eyes, howeuer hee might be helped with the gift of diuination. If *Iupiter* giue again the sight to *Ianuary*, (as in *Chaucers* Tale) to discover his wiues incontinencie, *Iuno* could quicken her spirits to such a wittie answer, as might pacifie all indignation: and so in diuers other particulars, from whence I recollect thus much in this ciuill administration of *Common-wealths*: that when the Law hath had a passage from authoritie, there is no stopping it by a subjects hand, howeuer the prerogatiue of a Prince may countermand the same, in another kinde: Therefore my *Honourable Lord*, I dare not attempt so farre, that you should overthrow the verdict against me, or by sinister course of greatnes, wrest aside the penaltie inflicted, but humbly request
you

you to raise as great a punishment on my aduersarie, by reason of his wilfull abusing your *Honour*: and mee your poore seruant, and tenant, as may answer in proportion my forfeiture, and oppose against his malicious inclination to ouerthrow my poore estate. And whereas these trialls in Lawe are meere distractions both of our peace and purses: you will giue him this notice, that except hee condescend to faire conditions of agreement, you will open a larger flood of displeasure against him, considering the circumstances. For truly my good Lord, hee beganne with mee, as that wicked man in the Gospell, who, when infinit summes were remitted him, notwithstanding ranne and tooke his fellow by the throate, and most cruelly demaunded 500. pence: These things I leaue to your particular consideration, and am resolute to relie more on your wisdom, in the managing the same, then my Fortunes, in ouercomming the affliction. *Your Honors in respectiue duty.*

To his honorable Friend, Syr D. L.

Noble Syr: Howeuer there hath lurked some dangerous poyson of incombance, vnder the tufted green-grasse of ciuill complement, and other protestations: yet I was neuer an absoute and apparant beggar till now, nor had thought to haue stepped so rudely, as to presse your curtesie. Therefore I request you, lay the blame on necessitie, and pardon this eruption of ill manners: but withall, so farre to consider my businesse, that these lines remaine vncancelled, & my suite be not tripped down, in the first setting forward. For (*good Syr*) if you vouchsafe not to send me x. ll, as wel to defray the charges of the suit, as to helpe toward the paimēt of the other debt, I shall not only lose the benefit of our first proceedings, but endanger my poore estate, which beeing a morgage, hath a time of forfeiture annexed, and day of terrour couenanted in the Articles.

A friendly request for money.

So that I cannot compare my selfe better then to a man holding the Wolfe by the eare, which if he pull hard, hee is bitten : if hee let go, he is in danger of further mischief. Therefore I request you, hold vp so far an aduancing hand of supportation, that I may wade through the current of these troubles, and land on the banke of securitie and contentment : which, for that it is not to bee effected without your assistance, I am the bolder to make you beleue (as it is indeed) it is a worke both glorious and charitable.

Your expectable friend.

To her much esteemed good Lady.

*A request for
the entertain-
ing of a
daughter.*

Good Ladie, I desire not willingly to deale with you, as iacalous husbands with their wiues, who commonly looke for that they would not find : So that if I should suspiciously make triall of your many worthy promises, and finde them Court vapours, or formall protestations, it would prooue an vnfauory search, and dull my desires in their forwardnesse toward you. Therefore I will proceed more confidently, and frame my request on the iustificablenesse of the motion, and the worthinesse of your merite. I beseech you therefore good Lady, take this poore gentlewoman by the hand, my onely daughter, and settle her in the schoole of obseruation, that shee may looke toward you, as the eyes of *Dauids* handmaid ; and toward her selfe as that good seruant, that doubled his talents ; to which purpose I haue instructed her with a mothers loue, and a womans experience ; wherein I hope she will proceed rather for the loue of vertue, then feare of displeasure. But good Lady, withall, I humbly request you, that she may be orderly led to the sight of her errors, and know with what face displeasure can looke when she doth amisse, especially in the desire of liberty, or acquaintance with wantonnes,

two such dangerous gulphs, that I haue seen very tall and well built ships swallowed in their whirlings: and therefore I haue reason to feare so slender a barke, and ill provided, as she is. Besides, there are some things, wherein ignorance hath a priuiledge: For man was neuer vnhappy, but in the knowledge of good and euill: not that there is any harme in vnderstanding to doe well, and auoyd the mischief of practising ill: But because we are rather prone to vice then goodnesse, and (quickly seduced) runne violently into the breake-neck race of precipitant iniquitie. My last request is, that you will pardon my presumption, and impute it rather to the confidence of your worth then my owne bad disposition: and so emboldned accordingly, I leaue her and my selfe to those vertues, that can beare imperfections, & regard our dutifull seruice toward you.

Your Ladships in all impositions.

To his Honourable Lord.

Honourable Lord, Among all the blessings afforded man in this world, none may equall mutuall societie, nor come neare the beautifull motions of worthy neighbourhood, and friendship: and of this I am an instance, and may well resemble diuers trees and plants which prosper the better, when the cunning gardner hath rooted by them, such kinde of fruits and hearbes, as in nature they desire, and in growing aduance their heads in iollity. For as Philosophers affirme, all things are distinguished and gouerned by *Sympathy* and *Antipathy*. This made me affect the place, wherein (as a poore tenant, Gentleman, and neighbour) I would willingly doe you such seruice, as befiteth my condition and quality to yeeld vnto: and your honour and grauity to command. I humbly therefore request you,

*A request for
assurance
of a farme.*

that I may haue some certaine assurance of the same in possession, as you haue shew me of my best loue, & then (no doubt) I shall with chearefulnesse and sufficiency make my approaches in such manner, that you shall neither be afraid of combersomnesse, nor I ashamed of any desparagement. But withall, I (again and again) desire, that you subiect me not to inferior groomes, and tie me to so strict a behaviour, as that the falling of a tree, the plashing of a hedge, the killing of a Partridge, & such like accidental occasions, draw my actions within your seruants censuring, or indirect information of busie bodies. And thus with a submissive resolution to loue and honour you, I commit you to his hands that can adde to your merits, honor vpon honor, and make me happy in the fulnesse of your opinion, and your noble respect, according to that I shall indeauour to deserue.

Your Honours humbled.

To his louing Friend, Mr. G. M.

*A request to
forbear a
debt.*

SIR, I dare not ouer-gild with quaint tearmes, and rhetorical Phrases (though I had such a prerogative by nature) my sute vnto you at this instant, lest you grow suspicious of some bad inclination, and secret cunning in crying with the Lapwing furthest from her nest; that is, making a shew of one thing, and determining another. Therefore I will plainly desire you to forbear the debt another yeare, that I may with a more cheereful looke consider the spots and staines of my durty face, and so at leisure make it cleane, or with a stronger arme cast it lightly from my shoulders, when I shall haue time to rest my self; and prepare to stand firmly vnder the load: otherwise, I may fall in making too much haste, and besmeere me the more in attempting with a foule & filthy clout, rashly
to

to purifie me. Hercin likewise you shall shew your selfe free from hard and griping exaction, wherein diuers vsurers are compared to *Harpies*, who neuer seize on any thing, which they let goe without carrying something away; nor ouermaster at all, where they doe not vtterly destroy. Besides, I shall proclaime you a charitable Gentleman, and enlarge my wishes for your prosperity, as you tie me to loue and respect you for so undeseruing a curtesie.

Yours, if you be not offended.

To her unkind Friend.

Good Sir, Howeuer these dangerous practises of yours may be at the best veiled ouer with excuse of trials, & as it were touchstones of my constancy: yet I pray you dealenot with me, as som strange Physitions do with their patients, who, because they find the body strong and well composed to some endurances, will therfore adde violent potions, and raging poisons to their receipts: and so peraduenture to see you visited of friends, accustomed to ciuill conuersation, courting of Ladies, and affording pleasant changes, as time and place requireth: I can passe ouer as things of course, and make my heart beleue, there is no perill in such aduenture, nor hazzard of true loue in circumstances: but to heare, that you daily conuerse with that fantastickall Lady, whose eyes are nets to intrap wiser men, and whose hands haue with the Spiders web wouen twisted threds to tie the rouing fancy to straiter admirations: concerning her beauty: of stronger & more wary men the your selfe: I cannot endure, nor will afford my opinion of you, so strong a presumption, that you can come away vnsharred or vncorrupted with allurements. Therefore I humbly request you, if not for loue, yet for pitties sake, leaue me not in this suspition, nor throw me so violently
into

*A request to
forbear a
dangerous
Ladies company.*

into the turbulent sea of iealousie. For I am a poore slender barke, and built for shallow waters: no man of Warre, nor high decked ship to endure all winde and weather. I am a slender reede placed in lower grounds to auoyd the boysterous puffs that assaile the highest mountaines: no Cedar of *Lebanon*, to aduance my head against all menacing stormes and tempests: I am a true hearted louer, who can be contented with onely one honest man, and haue taught my soule a lesson of beleefe, that you are master of your selfe, and a conqueror of affection; nay a follower of truth, and good remembrance concerning our contracts and mariage. To what end then doe you affright me with these indirect straglings abroad, and set my patience on the tainter-hooks of cruell expecting your returne, and how you will reason the matter to pacifie this displeasure? Well, I pray you bee a little more reposed, and take some sodaine course to come and satisfie me better: otherwise I will not beleeeue, but you wish an alteration, and I must prepare for some pittifull, either change or distresse.

Yours and yet displeased.

To his Honourable good Lord, and Patren.

*A request to
be charitable.*

Right Honourable, I am very vnwilling to make a perillous mixture of diuine precepts, and ciuill introducements; for feare I shuld not with sufficient reuerence settle my selfe, and prepare you to heare the same: otherwise, I could with Saint *Paul* to *Agrippa*, demand, whether you beleue the Scriptures: and answer for you, that I know you doe beleeeue them: and out of them can collect thus much; that by mercy we approch to God, and from compassion are led to the barre of acceptation with the diuine Maie-
stie. This made Saint *Paul* write to *Philemon*, to pardon the misled seruant, and soundeth out the tune of charity, as
the

the sweetest note in all the Scriptures : and this hath incited me to request your Honor to come as freely forward to the remission of my friend, as you can ; and once againe admit him vnder the couert of your fauour, and good opinion: For I know his hart is not onely impressed, with an acknowledgement of his fault, but (as it were) cast in a new mould to amend his life, and entertaine a true conuersion into the new built house of his conscience. Therefore, good my Lord, I beseech you againe for him, that he be not oppressed with despaire, and so cast downe on the bed of affliction irrecoverably: and againe and againe, for my selfe, that I bring him not worser tidings of your displeasure toward me, for vrging you beyond either my duty, or your owne will and worth. But I am perswaded, that so great a blood and generous mind will not looke with a tyrannous brow vpon such submission : nor greatnesse proue implacable, where humilitie is suppliant. In which confidence, I leaue your honour to a noble consideration of vs both, and worthy acknowledgement of many apparant benefits.

Your honors in all duetie.

To the Honourable Colonel, Sir F.P.

Worthy Sir, Although martiall men naturally affect not either complement or rhetoricall ampliation, as knowing that wisdom it selfe is sometimes vnseasonable : yet hauing good experience of your owne sufficiency many waies : and remembring a noble speech concerning the commendation of (M.R.) whose onely oratory, and eloquent perswasion, kept the troops whole together, and reunited the disperfed forces flying away, whereby those vnexpected sallies of our strong enemy were defeated, and a new life infused into our souldiers fainting courages; I am now the bolder to present this worthy Gentle-

A request to admit a soldier for a soldier.

M

man

man & scholler vnto you, in whom a great spirite, and true desire of honor hath preuailed against industry, & peaceable addiotion to ciuill imployment: so that if he proue as good a proficient in this martiall schoole, as he hath done in the exercises of seuerall Artes, I make no doubt, that as a double Band bindes stronger then a single, so shall hee giue that harshnes of a soldier, a further lustre: & besides, a generall good to his countrey, by such endeavors, gaine a particular grace from your self, for well applying such gifts as nature hath admitted him to receyue out of her chiefest store-house. Thus much emboldened from the secrets of our former friendship, and the merit of this my kinseman; whome I am so well perswaded of. I commit you to his hands that hath helped your hands to reach at honor: and and commend our selues to your good consideration, of so reasonable a request.

Yours, sworne to worthines.

To his right Honourable Lord.

*For the
knighting
a friendly &
worthy Gent:*

Right Honorable Lord, I would be loath to open any enclosure of ridiculous follie, or dangerous ambition, in the prosecution of of my suit, and iustifiable request, for the Knighting of *M.G.S.* considering many captious tongues, and enuious eyes, are busied on the Theater of the world, to pry into the demeanors of men, and burst out with calumniation, against the least imperfection: so that if a man stand not vpriight indeed, vpon the sure frame of prosperitie, and good opinion: a poore vertue shall be easily shouldred aside, and quiet spirit made the Tennis-ball of boysterous contempt, which commonly laugheth men to scorne with vilipending, not for any insufficiencie in the other:
but

but because idlenesse and presumptuous conceits runne at random without controule in themselves. Thus might I be terrified, because I haue heard some make a Tush at the motion, and knowe others ouer-daring to traduce him in priuate, and yet touched to the triall, disclaiming the least conceit of mislike.

But if it please your Honour to bee your selfe, and recollect your owne memory, I hope you will answere for vs both: For my selfe, that being my friend, and such a friend into whose bosome when I shiuered for colde,) I haue shrowded my selfe for warmthe: I could doe little, if I would not preferre so easie a petition, to so noble a Lord, and such, as had brought mee long since, out of the narrow entrie of suspition, to a manifest confidence of loue, and tyed his honour to the performance of a greater matter for my sake. Concerning him, he is in blood, so generous, that his grandfather was the thirteenth Knight of his Familie: in reuenues so enriched, that hee may improve his liuing, when he will, to an 1200. pounds a yeare, in stock so plentifull, that a 1000. pounds cannot counter-poise the same: in iudgement so reposed, that howeuer his great enemy hath kept him from beeing Commissioner: yet hath hee ended diuers contentions amongst his Neighbours, and regained the best opinion: in demeanour so delicate, that his house seemeth a well ordered and furnished Pallace, and his Stable, a store-house of excellent and well appointed horses: in conuersation, so pleasing, that the best Ladies haue taken paines to reuise him, and went away with admiration rather then satisfaction: and in eloquence so facet, that though he haue not bin a trauelier, or fouldiour: yet can he dispute of both, and ouer-beare a good resolution, to confirme it in either.

All which being considered, I make no doubt but I

haue reason to inferre the same: he is worthy to be remembered with the immunities of his ancestors: and your Honour so respectiue, that neither flattery nor detractiō shall pull vs within the danger of your displeasure: And for the maine point, which is disbursement of money, hee hath sworne the contrary, and is not determined to spend your friendship so mercinarily; because hee can so dispatch it by meaner men, meaner trouble, and a meaner account, or giuing reckoning of his fortunes.

Your Honors, as you can deuise.

To her highly respected Friend, Sir T.B.

*For to defend
a widow gentlewoman in
her right a-
gainst all
wrong & ca-
lumniation.*

Honourable Sir, I haue read, or at least, giuen eare vnto other folkes reading, that in ancient times, when honor and armes were mounted on a throne of estimation, there was a military oth prescribed to souldiers & knights with diuers limitations: amongst which, repulsiue of iniuries, and defending of Ladies were principall; & truly if a woman might bee admitted vnto a court of warre, no thinketh it was necessarie and honourable. For what is vertue, but a naturall inclination to charitable actions, and noble resolutions? and how dare a Gentleman take vpon him the title of Chivalry, that will defile his heart with malicious and dangerous reuenges, open his mouth to vndecent speeches and filthy opprobry, stretch his hands to entertaine fury and reuenge; yea frame the whole course of his life, either to a bestiall liberty, or barbarous doing of iniury? Therefore Noble Sir, remember your selfe, and from whence you are extracted, neere in alliance to me, and one, on whom I haue leaned for supportation, and relyed in all these eruptions of misfortune. Remember mee a poore Gentlewoman, a widdow in distresse, and groaning vnder the heauy and cruell hand of
a great

a great and mercileſſe aduerſary. Remember the cauſe, that it is vertues, the defence of chaſtity, and keeping vs al from penury and wants; and remember my aduerſary, that he is meerely malicious; and becauſe he could not obtaine, what he vnlawfully deſired, hee now ſoundeth out no note but reuenge: and ſweareth he wil make me repent, that I either denied, or conteſted with him. Therefore deare *sir*, let me ſlie to you for refuge, and as farre as true manhood may auoyd the imputation of quarrels, and dangerous blood-ſhedding, cling to your ſide vnder the ſhield of your noble protection: wherein I will deſire you to proceed no further, then by petition to my *H. G.* and orderly attendance on the high Commiſſioners: And this I take both waies to be iuſtifiable, and aſſure my ſelfe, this you would doe for a ſtranger, that had not eſtranged her ſelfe from good demeanour, and faire courſes of a vertuous inclination.

Yours, and ſworne to be ſo.

To his Honourable good Friend; L.

Honourable *sir*, I would not now reſemble the fiſh *Capia*, which caſt into any water troubles the ſame; nor be compared in my importunity to your Court tapers, which burne out themſelues to pleaſure others: ſo that in pleading thus in my friends behalfe, I may peraduenture doe him no good, and yet ſpend the ſplendor of your worthy loue to as little purpoſe concerning my ſelfe. But preſuming ſtill to finde you more and more generous, as you more and more approach vnto honour and dignitie, I am the bolder to expoſe vnto you the honeſt requeſt of Maſter *H.* and make it the marke of my aime, wherein if I ca come but ſo neare as your kind acceptance vpon thoſe

A friend entreateth for an office, for another.

conditions, which in a manner you gaue life vnto: I shall then thinke my selfe much bound vnto you, because of many blessings cast into my lap at once by that meanes: as the confirmation of your loue and regard, the gratuitie of two hundred pound besides the summe appointed for you: the discharge of the dutie of a friend; the answering certaine friuolous obiections against my credit: the corroboration of his good opinion and neighbourhood: the assured establishment of his alliance, and the preferring of true vertue and desert to noble and orderly entertainment. For I can assure you, hee is not onely worthy of the place, but extraordinarily quallified to moue (like a faire Planet) in his owne Orbe for sufficiencie. Besides, when he knowes it is your pleasure to admit him to more priuate familiaritie; you shall finde him reposed in iudgement, quicke in conceit, witty in discourse, pleasant in conuersation, and, aboue all, a louer of vertue, and ciuill in all his actions. Therefore I haue reason to plead in so good a cause, and for your sake in some sort am proude, that I haue such interest in the businesse: whereby if you nobly consent to dispatch, then shall you double the fauour, and make vs both obliged vnto you for euer. For, as in harsh and vnpleasant newes, a quicke deliuey easeth much the heart, which otherwise would weary with expectation. So in all good turnes, a timely sending forth, makes the benefits gracious, & the benefactor to resemble a sweet swelling spring to a thirsty soule.

Yours, if you thinke me worthy.

To her assured friend.

Good Sir, Common experience hath brought women into the field of this knowledge, that it is an easie task to giue good counsell, and priuate trials of your great vnderstanding hath assured me, that you know when to aduise your friend; with all the other circumstances of place and persons: whereupon I am now inforced to ouer-burden you with petitions, and make one request for all, that you deny not the best directions, though I seeme to examine you on particulars. I pray you then consider on the assurance of my dowry, and whether it be not preiudiciall to my estate, if in surrendring I make a change for the manor of F. which may bee for any thing I know subiect to some enconbrances. Secondly, remember the conuenance of those lands for my daughters portions, and yonger sonnes annuities: and I pray you be carefull that the pleasing of our selues in present times, endamage not the Orphants in future changes. Thirdly, send me word, what enquiry you haue made of Sir G. P. who would make me beleue, a second mariage cannot bee preiudiciall to my fortunes, and may adde to my comfort and augmentation of estate mutuall society of a worthy husband, and setled prosperitie, when the minde is contented, and a woman satisfied in her last desires. Fourthly, let your former care I pray you extend thus farre, that this secret enemy to the thriving of all Gentlemen (10. in the 100.) doe not steale vpon vs like a priuy thief, & cary such a mastering had ouer our prosperity, that wee be not able to eate meat in good order, nor hold vp a cheerfull face of entertainment, as we were accustomed: and last of all, that my rents may bee
duly

*For aduice in
matters of
difficulty.*

duely sent vp, and without further trouble or danger, then the stewards fee, & the tenants dinner, not that I wold enter into any league with couetousnes, or sparing, but because I would leaue no president of encombring my Children, nor their presumption to claime an vnbesitting priuiledge. Thus as farre as I am beholding to remembrance, I haue patched together (as you see) my requests, and make no doubt but you will accordingly, endeuer to continue my assured Friend, as I resolute to bee your well-willer in any thing to my power.

Yours, relying on your aduise.

Gratulatory Letters.

To her carefull Friend, M. S. H.

*A thank-
fulness for a
daughters
good bringing
up, & good
bestowing.*

Worthy Syr: I perceiue by you, that custome is as great a preseruatiue of vertue, as furtherer of vice: For as in abuses, it oftentimes falles out, that those finnes, which at first we were afraide to touch, we afterward make a pastime to handle: so in worthy proceedings, a continuall progression maketh the race so pleasant, that a generous man walketh in no other tract, nor practiseth other actions then noble and heroicall.

Thus haue you begun with friendship to the Father, settled regard toward the mother, continued with care to the daughter, and put charity on her best wings, to flye for vs all: Thus haue you remembred a dying friend, supported a distressed Widow, relieved a succourlesse Virgin, and taught farre more neerer kindred a lesson of true charitie: Nay, thus haue you holpe the fatherlesse, defended the innocent, raised vp the fainting soule, and loued vertue, for vertues sake: so that my poore childe may thinke her selfe happy to be borne in such an houre, when you were a witnessse of the same; and I blesse the time in which I obtained

tained your fauor to christen her. But is this sufficient? or shall I thanke you recompence such an inestimable benefite? I confesse it cannot: considering you haue not onely prouided for her infancie, ouer-watched her childehood, instructed her youth, taught her good manners, and brought her out of the darknesse of ignorance, to the light of vnderstanding: but haue also made it the worke of your owne hands, to marrie her to a worthy Husband; as if therein lay the secret of all businesse, and that it were the perclose of each action: Therefore, as a small aduantage, I adde the publike acknowledging of the same, and the continuall presenting our selues and endeours to your acceptation; wherein I am the rather emboldned, because I hope I haue encountered with such a man, that did not so much glory in the pleasuring of vs, as reioyce in bringing his owne good purposes to perfection.

Your true obseruant.

To his Honourable Friend.

Worthy Syr, Amongst many others, *Martiall* hath a pretty *Epigram* against an hypocriticall *Maccenas* of learning: who, when a reasonable *Poeme* was presented vnto him, accepted the same, but returned the author without recompence: which when *Martiall* perceiued was a trick of couetousnes and bad disposition: hee called him coufener, and vrged the reason; hee said, hee had cheated him of his Time, labour, wit, spirits, and passion: For how could a poore Scholler but repine at the miserie, and curse the occasion, that had preuented him from a further benefit else-where? But on my soule: you were not affrighted with this: For I haue knowne you requite the writing of a Letter, and when you rendered great recom-

A thankfulness for recompencing the giving of a Booke.

N

peace

pence for a small kindnesse, I haue heard you say :

Sic paruis componere magna solebam.

As for my poore businesse : I wondered at your profusenes, and thought it a donatiue from heauen : and when I was telling of three pound, for three sheetes of paper, I suspected my selfe for dreaming, till a creditor came in, and not onely awaked my feares, with assurance it was golde: but was contented to take the most part of it away, in part of payment of a greater summe.

Thus from your Noble bountie was I releued, a debt payed, your Honour divulged, a good example discouered, and all of vs assisted : And thus must I sweare you worthie of all worth, and bee my selfe proud, that euer I knewe your name, and participated of your good conditions : wherein (I hope) as a *Magnes*, you will draw others to imitation, and teach me to take out a new lesson of loue, dutie, and obedience, toward you.

Yours, as you haue restored him.

To the right Honourable Lord. L.

*At thankes
for an
office.*

Most Honorable Lord, As often as I was comforted with the glorious sight of golde, so often must I needes remember your Honour, but when I make vse of the same, to worthy purpose, I blesse the cause, and pray the giuer of all blessings, to establish you as firmly, as wishes and worldly meanes can contriue. Oh what a difference is there betweene wants, and aboundance, betweene preferment, and standing at a stay, betweene imployment, and idlenesse ? whereas before I walked vnregarded, now I sitte at ease admyred ; and how euer the heart,
is

is corrupted, I am sure of an obsequious ceremony, and cheerefull countenance; where as before I was scarce welcommed to any, I am now entertained of all; and in steed of fretting my selfe for lacke of presents to giue my friends, am now made cheerefull with many gratuities, euen from my enemies: whereas before I could not preuent necessities with great paines taking, and trouble, I now supply euen wantonnes with cheerefulness and pleasures. So that the feare is as great to be corrupted with felicitie, as the vexation was greuous to be tormented with aduersitie: whereas before my sonnes were affraide to be called the children of a beggerly Gentleman, and the daughters sequestred themselves for want of outward ornaments, the boyes dare now flourish with the best fashion; and the girles take vpon them to demand, what liuings shall equall their dowry: and all this heate commeth from the Sun-shine of your fauours; all this glorie from the raies of our regard; all these riuulets of spreading graces, from the sweetning spring of your effectuall loue toward me: so that as I liue I am beholding to nature, but as I liue well, I am beholding to you, and (the highest onely excepted) none but you, nor will acknowledge any vpholder of my state but your selfe, while I liue.

Yours, howeuer establisbed.

*To the worthy of Honourable titles,
Sir F. H.*

Noble Sir, I perceiue that vertue and discretion is so predominant with you, that you keepe equall correspondencie in all things. For as I walked in your orchard, I saw a yong tree scarcely rooted, and doubly defenced for feare

A thankfulness for defending one against a great of aduersary.

of a shaking wind, and boysterous shouldring of carelesse commers and goers; whereby I remembred my selfe and businesse, and when I recounted, that in my last presumption by plunging my selfe into a turbulent sea, (that is, in aduenturing to contend with my great and malicious adversary) I was readie to sinke vnder water, had not your stretched out arme held my head vpright: I blessed heauen for sending such succor; I blessed you for taking such compassion; I blessed the cause that thrived so wel; and I blessed my selfe, that had obtained such fauour; so that I must not onely be thankfull for the same: but request the perseuerance to your continuall glory. Oh how happy is hee that runneth well: but ten times more happy, that obtains the reward. The good desires of men haue some allowance, their charitable actions great estimation, their noble beginnings warrantable hopes; but a constant resolution and perseuerance assurance of felicity. Therefore (worthy *Sir*) as much for your owne honour, as my good, I humbly request you to consider still of mee, and as you holpe me out of a dangerous tempest, so now vouchsafe to pull me out of a raging fire: not that I would haue any contumacy in me abetted by your greatnesse; but see true noblenesse in you spring vp to the eminentest height. For, *Sir G.* threatneth further, and when he was not to be answered, told me in publicke, that neither I, nor my Champion should cary it away, as we presumed. But, good *Sir*, you pleade for vertue and innocency, and therefore I know will not be out-dared; with power made wilfull by peeuishnesse, in which confidence I will neither accumulate your praises, nor flatter my well deseruing; but settle my resolution, to desire nothing at your hands, which is vniustifiable; nor despaire of any thing, which your loue to mee, and regard of the iustnesse of the cause, may contriue.

Yours resolved.

To

To the Honourable Lady, M.

Most worthily honored, when David gaue only care vnto Zibas complaint, lame Mephibosheth was wronged, and halfe his land was giuen to a Parasite: which made Salomon more cautelous, and from his fathers vniust proceeding in this kinde, preuented the calumniation in himself: and so admitting the harlots face to face, decided the controuersie for the liuing child. So that it cannot choose but that you haue thrived in searching the Scriptures, and made vse of the same to your eternall comfort. For which I thanke you; and belecue it, it was nobly done, both to send my accuser away without entertainment, and not condemne mee for any triuiall enforcement before you heard my iustifications. Why (my best Lady) you know, and many better men, then he, haue told you, that I am so farre from wronging you with a falshood, that I haue maintained your honor against any, as farre as truth would giue me leaue: when (as the time was) that you gaue mee cause to distast your vnkindnesse; I would not permit another to whisper against your iniustice: Nay more, when I was threatned for being a supporter of your disobedience, I plunged my selfe into a gulph of troubles, to keepe you from falling into the danger. Therefore I pray you continue your owne worthines, and good opinion toward me. For howeuer out of passion I may suspect my thriving in your estimatimon; belecue it, out of iudgement, and the true dutie of loue and friendship, I will not suffer any other to traduce you.

A thankfulness for not beleeuing a fals report.

Yours, onely to be commanded.

To her well esteemed Friend.

*A thankfulness
for lending of money.*

M*Y dearest Friend,* Although I am a woman, & should rather busie my self with household affaires, wherein a good wife is resembled to a wel manured ground, yeelding increase to a rich aduantage. Yet can I not choose but hear of many discourses, especially touching thriving businesse, whereby friendship hath bene maintained in the lending of money, for which great recompence hath beene made by interest and other gratuities: so that now we do not dispute of the vnlawfulnesse of vsury, but suppose him well satisfied, that can haue money lent him at any reasonable rate: which seeing necessity and corruption of time hath brought so to passe, Oh how blessed was that occasion! how happy were those steps? how fortunat was that houre? how carefull was that Genius? and how compassionate was that ouerwatching eye, that brought you to my house? whereby you did not onely heare my complaints, commiserate my grieffe, releue my wants, and cheared me in discomfort: but lent me mony; and how much? 500. marke, and how long? without limitation: & vpon what securitie? my honest word, & my seruants bond: & wherfore? gratis, without a pennie vsurie or augmentation of profit. O rare and worthy example! more fitter for Fames golden Clarion to eccho in the world for admiration, then a sillie womans thankfulnessse to acknowledge to her friends of necessitie. So that beleue it, if praiers could preuaile by ceremonye, I would not onely kneele, but kneele so long as I could, till God had heard my request to grant you your desires. Nay I would hold vp my hands and mine eies, and lift vp my heart and all, and neuer leaue looking, till I saw comfort from heauen, spreading ouer your head the mantle of prosperitie. In which assurance I bid you farewell;

well; because I fare so well from the assurance, wherby you haue warranted your loue and friendship vnto all of vs for euer.

*Yours, most dutifull if you would
accept of the humiliation.*

To his true helping Friend.

Good Sir, This last was a timely fauour, and represented the first and second raine to a thirstie ground: where- by as you haue afrighted all imputation of formallitie and smooke promises: I haue, and must acknowledge the same as a worthy kindnesse, and duty of a true Gentleman. For howeuer men may runne away with the titles of honour and greatnesse; yet (beleue it) in the professing of friendship, there is a manifest dutie to bee obserued toward the meanest. This caused Poets and Philosophers to describe a friend from the effects of his actions, and suppliment of others in aduersities: this raised the difference betweene a good neighbour and a bad in holy Scripture: this taught the *Italians* to crie out, that *Dono multo aspettato è venduto è non donato*: a gift long expected, is sold and not bestowed as a kindnesse: and this hath taught you the way to true worthinesse, whereby I stand supported by a strong arme, and you remaine exposed to the world, as a faire mouing planet in a serene firmament.

*A thankesful-
nes for a time
ly good turne.*

Your recovered Friend.

Letters of Newes.

To his worthy Friend, Adventurer into
the Straights.

News from
Xante and
Candy.

WOrshipfull Syr : The fame of *warde* (our *English Pyrate*) hath the same passage here, as all rumors commonly enter into : so that if there be the least certaintie of some occurrences, many lyes shall bee augmented, and a mint of foolish triviall absurdities set on worke: but because there is but one Truth, and that you expect something at my handes may come somewhat neere the same, I will deliuer what I knowe of my selfe, and am enformed from others: Out of the closet then of mine owne knowledge, I gather thus much, that beeing in *Xante*, and attending my passage for *Constantinople*, certaine *Italian* shippes bound for *Cyprus* & *Scanderon*, durst not styrre out of harbour for feare of *warde*, who was supposed to lye on the other side of an *Island* called *Sapientia*, and watched but the opportunitie of their setting forwards: which they so procrastinated for feare of surprising, that two *English* shippes went to *Candy*, unladed their goods, made vp theyr accounts, and came backe againe for *Currens* at *Xante*, before the other could ouermaster their feare, or durst make tryall of their fortune: but when these shippes had made relation of a newe marchant man of *London*, cast away on the coast of *Candy* for want of a good *Pilote*, or orderly direction to prevent a northeast wind, which is most dangerous at the spring of the yeare, wee were somewhat perplexed, and the Posts were sent immediately ouer-land, to aduertise the marchants not to come into the straights, so slenderly provided as they did. For questionles since our peace with *Spaine*, diuers of your company presuming on the same, haue improuidently let out weake shipping, and
slen-

flenderly provided; so that what with piracy, shipwracke, and the *Florentines*, and *Malteffes*, wee lost more within these five yeares, then we did in fortie before, when wee stood on our guard, & prepared to encounter with expected foes. From the aduertisements, of others we gather together abundell of these occurrences, that *Ward* had the fortune to take a *Venetian Galeas*, which hee brought into *Tunis*, & had raised an estate by it, but that it miscarried in harbour; that he liued there in great feare & ieaiousie, both of the *Bashaw*, whom he was faine to bribe extraordinarily; of the *Turkes*, whom he onely corrupts with reward; & of his owne followers whom hee suspected vpon the least discontentment would betray him to the *Venetian*, or send him to his Maiesties Embassadours: as for that smoaky report he carryed, it is nothing so; onely he liues in a house when he comes on shore, and is reasonable politicke, if he had any wealth, not to make shew of it for feare the *Ianisaries* themselues should rob him altogether. But in truth the spoyle hath bene farre greater of his piracies, then the goods orderly brought to land, and out of them so many extractions, as there can little remaine to his owne share. For by that time the *Bashaw* is compounded with: the charges defrayed, the *Turkes* payed, and his owne company contented, there will be such an abatement, that out of ten thousand pound, his share and part groweth to an height of pride, if it raise it selfe to five hundred pound: and how deerely he must liue in the rate of housekeeping, euery passenger can tell. Concerning your particular businesse, your factor both in *Xante* and *Candy* hath sent you many letters and bills, which I leaue with this of mine to receiue speedy dispatch and orderly pardon, if any errors are committed.

Yours vndiuided, though farre off.

Q

To

To his noble Friend, S. I. S.

Newes from
Constanti-
nople.

Worthy Sir; There need no filling a letter of newes, with preamble, complement, or circumstance, and therefore I will onely tell you, I am proud of any remembrance, when I expose your worth, to my conceyt, & glad of any good fortune, when I can auoyd the imputation of ingratitude, by acknowledging your many fauours, and writing the same vnder my hand and seale : This I will doe still, euen in this letter from *Constantinople*, entreat you to admit of my coustome, and pardon me, if I take the plaine high-way of reciting particulars : without stepping into any ambiguous nookes of phrāses, and eloquent aduantages : I came then to *Const:* in *Aug:* and found *Syr Tho: Glover*, and his Ladie so well settled, in an honourable correspondencie to their estates, that I was proud in my countreys behalfe, that a man had raised his Fortunes meere by worthinesse and desert; and a woman had shewed such an heroick spirit, that she was neuer distempered with the tediousnes of her iourney, nor affrighted, though she met with *Cap: Ward*, at the passage to *Nigroponte*: For whē *M. Clarke* the master of the Ship & she went in, they disputed the matter, as if it were *Ward* indeed, and seeming to make a stoppe at the same, shee tolde him, there was no remedie but to fight, and hee might be made for euer, if he had the good fortune to bring his fame on the ground, and deliuer our Confederates from so great a feare : — Touching the Cittie it selfe, it is in a manner a Triangle, double walled, with beautifall Towers, and may resemble a painted *Curtezan*, deceiuing you, with sophysticate comelinesse, and adulterate shewes, but within corrupted, and full of confusion

sion and beaftialitie : yet are many excellent things remarkable in the same : namely, within the Towne it selfe, called of the Turkes *Stanbole*, or comely : the Turkes, *Seralio*, or Pallace, containing two miles about : the seauen Towers, a goodly Prison towards the South-East : the Wall it selfe, without any Suburbs : the *Mosquees*, or Churches, to the number of 800. amongst whome, the *Sophia*, *Almorata*, and *Sultanina*, are the principall beautifull Fabrickes : the *Besifteine*, a place like our Exchange, or *Rialto* at *Venice*, for delicate commodities : but for aduantage, there are men and women solde, like horses in Smithfield.

The *Iewes* Sellers are all vnder-ground, with iron gates, where the whole treasures of the Common-wealth are secured, both from Fire and Earth-quakes : the Conduits of water at many corners of streets, where a kinde of Officer attends, to giue to all commers. Diuers monuments of Porphyrie, Brasse, Marble, Obeliscos, Pyramides, and such like, shewing some face of Antiquitie, and placed where the auncient Greekes were woont to celebrate their Turniaments. The *Balneas*, which through corruption of time, and manners, are meere Brothells and stewes : The *Bashawes* houses, Pallaces of state, and of great capacitie : as containing diuers places of sequestration, according to their number of Wiues & Concubines, which they maintaine. A place called *Iobs-Toombi*, celebrated for the buriall of the Emperours children.

Diuers *Seralias* for men and women, as Hospitalls, to keepe them till they come to age. *Constantines* Pallace, and the *Patriarkes* houses, as solet edifices, and shewing the ruines of time, and memorable Antiquities : the guard of *Ianissaries*, to the number of 50000, when the Armie is at home, and the burying places, both of *Iewes* and Turks,

remote, at least a mile from the Wall, and superstitiously, Dedicated to the memorie of the dead. Without the Citie, the admirable haven, called *Sacraporta*, 20. fadome deepe, close to the wall of both the Cities.

Galata, a Citie walled ouer against *Constantinople*, onely diuided by sea, as broad as our *Thames*: the vines of *Pera*, a great Suburbs to the same, where the *English*, *French*, and *Venetian* Embassadors were resident. Towards the North, the *Arsinall* of galleys, toward the South, the office of artillerie, called *Tapinau*: the passage to *Pompeyes* pillar, and the blacke tower, 20. mile orderly, beautified with *Bashawes* houses, and other edifices, proud of comely exornation, till you enter the blacke-Sea it selfe, which extendeth a great breadth northwardes, and a 1000. mile to the East, as farre as *Trebizond*.

But if you would heare of a worke of wonder and magnificence, you must ride into the Countrey, some 15. miles off, and ouer-looke the *Aqua-ductus*, which are raised in the Valleyes, to the toppes of certaine hilles, about 500. foote high, and so carrie the water leuell, from one to another, till they fall into a Cesterne: from whence it hath a passage through diuers Pipes, to many Conduicts in the Citie.

I dare not enlarge my Letter greater, with these triuiall things, because I knowe you haue read many discourses more peculiar and pertinent, and expect at my hand a farther discouerie, when we shall meete at more conuenient leisure.

Yours, amongst Infidells.

To his respected worthy Friend, Sir L.

Worthy Sir, I was almost ashamed to write any thing from these parts, as newes, or matter worth the inquiring after, but that I receiued a letter from you while I was in *Scio*, which seemed to command me, and taught me the way of good manners to satisfie your pleasure. I would hasten to an end, lest some curious eye make a tush at these papers, when they examine, that I would fill a letter with such poore and common intelligences. I then came to *Scio*, of purpose to tarry for maister *Bradshaw*, whom we expected from *Scandaron*, but such was the miserie and trouble of these times and places, that the *Florentines* and *Malteffis* had sent out diuers ships to intercept the transportation of Turkes in any Christian vessell whatsoever, and lighting vpon him, put him to a dangerous fight, in which hee was forely wounded, and had much adoe to come off with vtter destruction: so wee lost our passage, and spent our money in this Iland, where the Greekish women are extraordinarily beautifull, rich, and handsome: and the English Marchant liueth at great expences not daring to trust any of vs without good billes of Exchange, or good sufficient assurance of a better estate, then most commonly a traueller can enlarge. Wee did also heare that Maister *Pindar* our Consull at *Aleppo*, behaued himselfe very worthie of the best report indeede, and had much adoe in those Turkish tumults for to saue his life, and keepe the towne and Merchants from spoyling. Besides, at *Scanderon* a most intricate businesse about Maister E. a Merchant,

Newes from
Scio.

and a Frenchman, who had contracted a bargain for Gawls to the valew of 10000. dollers, raised his fame for the well contriuing, in sauing all their liues. For the Turkes maintaining iustice in the strictest manner, and punishing the least corruption that way with death, found an occasion to bring these parties to iudiciall triall, because it was supposed, that the Moore which sold them was deceiued in the weight by a corrupted Turke, who was the officer of the customes, and broken vpon the wheele vpon the first complaint: so that there was a present demand of the like iustice both on the English and French merchants; and was not determined without a great summe of money, and bribing the *Bashaw*: wherein there was no other face of preuention to be seene, then disbursement of a fine, and acknowledging a fault, and so with great difficulty the matter was concluded. About the same time Master M. hauing beene some two yeare before surprised by the *Malteesses*, and then protesting neuer to be so ouermastred, or ouershot, vndertooke a dangerous encounter betweene *Sicilia* and *Candy* with a *Venetian Galeas*, in a shippe called the *Corslet*. For comming toward the gulph, & hauing some vncustomed, or peraduenture prohibited goods aboard: as also neglecting those nauall and marine ceremonies appropriate to the State, hee held it stubbornly out, rather then he would be searched, or abased in vailing his bonet, and so the fight continued a whole day, till he was hurt, & many of his men slain, but being taken and ouer mastered he was carryed to *Venice*, where with much adoe his libertie was obtained, to the great honour of Sir *Henrie Wotton* our Embassador, and contentment of the merchants, both here and at home.

Your memorable friend.

To

To the Worthy Doctor, T.

R *Everend Sir,* While I lay ill at ease in *Meteline*, I received a letter from you, by the hand of Sir H. B. as hee came a shore to see the Iland, and belike taking easie iourneys in a Turkish Carmisan, heard at *Gallipolis* and the castles, that I was sicke there. Notwithstanding, I raised vp a pale face with a chearefull heart, and vnderstood by the same, that you desired a kinde of account concerning the Greeke Church, and Turkish gouernment. Truly your letter was most acceptable vnto me, as vnderstanding thereby the health of him I loue so well: but the contents affrighted me, as knowing nothing could come from mee worthy your view, or bearing any shew of delight, especially satisfaction, considering the iudicious apprehension and great reading of the receiuer: yet againe, when I knew (if the worst fell out) I was to encounter with loue, and ciuill acceptation, I tooke aduantage of a day wherein my Feauer did not rage, and thus hudled vp this vnfashionable peece, which if it resemble the confused lumpe, wherein nature helpeth the Beare in the deliuerance of her burthē, you must with her industry, either reduce it to fashion, or your owne goodnesse winke at the deformities. I will therefore begin with the Greekes, who are so enuious and malignant toward the Latines, that they had rather liue in seruitude vnder the Turkes, then require either aide or assistance of the Romish Bishop, contesting with him euen from prioritie of place, and auncient possession of the Christian religion: so that in their account hee is but a meere vsurper of their glory and promotion, which hee hath ouermantled with diuises and mens traditions, that neither they can acknowledge him a father in the true Church, nor he them, as obedient children to his holy

Consisto-

*Newes from
Meteline.*

Consistory. Concerning their ciuill gouernment, it is a meere mangled body. For no man possesseth either lands, goods, or scarcely their liues in securitie; but either the Turkes command makes them slaues, or the *Timariots* or quartering of souldiers by the name of *Capoges*, or *spahies* subiecteth all to licentiousnesse and incontinencie: they haue no munitied cities, but vpon the frontiers of *Transilvania* and *Hungary*, nor permitted the possession of armour or munition: onely *Gratianopolis*, *Andrinopolis*, *Philopolis*, *Salenica*, *Galipolis*, and some townes in the Ilands are populous and ful of Edificies, but farre from their ancient beauty, or other cities of *Europe*. To conclude in a word, they are the meere pictures of miserable confusion, and ruines of time. Concerning their religion, it is so corrupted with age & pride of preecedency, that it will entertaine no reformation; saying plainly, that *Antioch* was the first Christian Church, and the Greekes made the sheepe of Christs fold before euer *Paul* was carryed prisoner to *Rome*: as for *Peters* persecution, or being there at all, they absolutely deride it: and assure vs, that he was twenty year elders of *Antioch*, and appointed the Apostle ouer the Iewes. In pouer- tie they almost come neere the Primitiue Church. For their Monasteries are much diminished, and their Churches and Congregations very small, and of little entrade: they denie purgatory, and the Popes supremacy, saying plainly, that if such a title were extant or necessary, it belonged to *Iohn* Patriarch of Constantinople, with whom *Gregory* the Great of Rome, had many encounters to suppress that tumour: they baptise with oyle and water, haue foure Lents, fast precisely, weare long haire like the Nazarites, allow of no Saints but in the Bible, nor haue pictures in the Church but from thence: yet do they celebrate certaine feasts to Saint *George*. *Nicholai* and *Demetrius*, they are much giuen to mirth, and excede in contraries. For

at

at their mariages they haue great pleasure and pastime: in their buryall great sorrow and lamenting, euen to the gro- ueling on the ground, and watching night and day ouer the graues. Many Countreys acknowledge their religion, as *Russia, Georgia, Mengrelia, Armenia*, and the people of *Aethyopia*, vnder *Prester-Iean*: Of whose particulars, you haue whole volumes; Amongst whom an vnderstanding wit may select the best, though many absurdities are en- termingled with some truthes.

Concerning this Turkish gouernment, neuer came Mo- narchy to the height of such a preuailing. For there is no subiect of hereditary eminence but himselfe, and this *Em- peror Sultan Achmat*, is the 14. of the house of *Othoman*: the doctores of their Law called *Alcharon*, and the *Musly* the principall Priest, rule the Empire, although it seeme mana- ged vnder the gouernment of the 5. *Vizeeres*, & other *Ba- shawes*: the strength of his kingdome is meerly supported by the *Ianissaries* & souldiers, who are the sonnes of Chri- stians, and depend vpon the pleasure of their Emperour, as without eyther Friend or Parent, but the Turkes pension: They loue Iustice: punish Adultry with death: hate Drun- kennes, and Blasphemy: doe nothing but to purpose: eate no swynes-flesh: nor should drinke any wine: They weare long garments: neuer vncouer the head, which is all sha- uen, except one locke on the toppe, by which they suppose to be pulled vp to heauē by *Mahomet* their great prophet: They haue many wines & cōcubins to preuēt adultry: they write bias, and read backward, as the Hebrues; and neglect all languages but their owne, *Persian*, and *Arabian*: None but of *Mahomet's* race weareth greene, and all are obedient to their *Bashaws*: & they absolute slaues to the Emperour; For their religion, it is full of great reuerence: They call to their churches or *mosquees* 4. times a day, by the voyces of men, on the top of a tower: and on friday (their sabboth)

P

5.times:

5. times: No living thing is pictured or engraven in their churches or *mosques*, to auoyde idolatry. The principall Priest is the *Musti*, of great account with the Emperour: For he & the doctors of their law, ouer-rule in many ciuill things. The order of *Deruices* is futable to the *Capuchine* friers, and are called *Turners*: They allow God the Father, but denye the *Trinitie*: They reuerence the three professors of the three religions: *Moyſes* for the Iewes: *Chriſt* for the Christians: & *Mahomet* for themſelues: They hate in others prophanation or blaſphemy, and obſerue naturalls, mad-men, and fooles: They bury their dead with a ſinging noyle, and watch ouer the graues, with mourning & howling. Inſinit other particulars may be obſerued, but theſe ſhall ſuffice, till a larger diſcourſe can bring mee within the reach of your acceptation. and ſhewe, how I haue not employed my time amiſſe: and am willing to giue you notice of the ſame; whome of all other men I would content in this kinde.

Yours, with a true heart.

To his honorable Friend, Captaine S.

*Newes from
Malta.*

M*y noble Companion*, without further complemēt; when we parted from *Meffina*, you for *Venice*, and I for *Conſtantinople*: Newes came to our *Engliſh Conſull*, that the *Vineyard* (a ſhip of *London*) was ſurprized by the *Malteſes*, the goods conſiſcate, and one *Harris* the Maſter, terribly threatned, for transporting Munition, or other prohibited merchandiſe to the *Turks*: wherein the *Gran-Prior* is ſo reſolute, that he hath preſumed to write into *England*, to juſtifie the action: and added withall, that the next offender ſhall looſe ſhip and all. For you muſt conſider, that there is a kinde of Confederacie betweene the *Pope*, the Duke of *Florence*, and theſe *Malteſes*, gainſt the *Turke*: and whereas all other Princes are now as it were vnder a protection of a
peace,

peace: these onely dare to proclaime a warre: And what they cannot perform with the brauery of open hostilitie at land, they will execute with the cunning of priuate surprises at Sea: and by reason the Knights of the *Rhodes* abated their florishes in the losse of that *Iland*, they are retyred to *Malta*, to recouer their credit: & euer since that happy repulsiſing the Turkes, by that miraculous defending their citie and Castle, haue stood at defiance, both with this enemy of Christians, & all such as shall support him, to make him a stronger enemy, then they suppose he can be of himselfe: And heerein the Pope is so charitable, that he bleſſeth their enterprises, and encourageth many Gentlemen, (of diuers Nations) to enrowle themselves vnder the *Holy Banner*: & account it a glorie to be a true Souldier for religion: So that a Knight of *Malta* holdeth vp a countenance of such reputation, that hee supposeth his Honour to precede any temporall dignity vnder a Baron: and the *Gran-prior* himselfe will not abate a iote of a Princes estimation.

Yours for euer, though we neuer meete againe.

To his approued Friend, G. A. Esq.

Good Syr: There is no one thing in the world, in which I desire to haue an honorable contention with you, as in curtesie and good conditions: So that whether it be emulation, or a naturall motion to doe well, I care not: but am assured you haue exposed such a pattern of true friendship, that I must answer the proportion, and frame my selfe to an orderly satisfaction: you haue loued mee, therefore I must affect you: you haue visited me, therefore I must not seeme strange: you haue bene bountifull, therefore I must be thankfull: you haue written, and therefore I must answer: yea, and that from *Venice*, the wonder of *Europe*, and the glorie of *Italie*: where I haue encountered with Newes,

*Newes from
Venice.*

which I am proud to make you partaker of: because within the memorie of man, neuer was so remarkable an accident. Know then, that after the Pope had swelled, with the repining against the *Venetian* contumacy, Frier Paul of the order of *Serui*, was cōdemned for an heretike, burnt in his image at *Rome*, and attēpted many times to be murdered: his offence raised from certaine books against the Popes secular iurisdiction, ouer Princes and free states: his discourses grounded on the loue of his Countey, at such time as the *Venetians* determined a stopping of certaine *Mortmaines*, with pretences of money satisfaction: least time and seduction should weaken their glorie by diminishing their lands, & giuing away their territories to monasteries: his reward, an annuall pension of 500. ducates, and glorious Title by sound of Trumpet of *Theologo designato*: At which the Clergie so stormed, that they made it a matter of treason, against God and his Angells, thus to extenuate the authoritie of the Mother-Church, by such presumptuous restraints, against the will & pleasure of the Pope and his Cardinalis. Wherevpon, without further disputing, a seuerer fulmination passed forth against them: which also so vilipended them, that fier & sword was proclaimed, and nothing but submissiō and absolution could deliuer them from the sauage stroakes of reuenge.

This so startled the *Venetians*, and rowsed vp the drowsie eyes of other Princes, that they all looked vp to see with what face these controuersies and accidentall displeasures, would terrifie the world: and not contented with verball protestations, they mustred their Armies, and at my coming into *Italy*, I heard nothing else but the clamours of warre, and warre against the Pope himselfe. In which hurliburly, a noble man of *Venice*, of the house of *Donatus* now Duke, hauing bene long since *Banded* by the State, for murdering a Gentl: to whose wife loue had formerly

enthralled him, determined to worke out his reconciliati-
on, by prostrating his seruice to the State: and attending
the same (if need and occasion required) with 50. Horsm:
at his owne charge; and because they should not lay im-
putation vpon him of formalitie, and ceremonious braue-
rie, from winde and smoake, he brought them by Sea into
the Citie it selfe, and had licence to make a Martiall shew
before the Ladies and better sort of the people: And thus
in a sequestred place, at their *fundamento nuouo*, he mustred
50. Horsm: with reasonable equippage, and proportiona-
ble discipline, which was neuer seene in *Venice* before.
For there is neither horse nor cart, neither fresh-water, nor
wholsome-ayre, neither sword nor cloake for the Gentl: of
Venice himselfe: nor any pleasant walke to passe the time
with recreation, more then the delicate entertainment in
their *Gondolas*, and some comicall shewes on their *Grand-
Canal*: Amongst which, the rarest that euer I sawe, was a
costly and ostentous triumphe, called a *Regatto*, presented
on the *Grand-Canal*, to entertaine the Princes of *Piedmont*
and *Mantua*, who came hither of purpose to see the Citie,
and the pleasures of the same: which I must needs say for
liberty of life and conscience, *Curtesans*, *Mountebanks*, *Mu-
sike*, and *Monasticall* presumption, surpasseth any Citie in
the world. The shew it selfe was briefly thus: diuers young
Gentlem: according to their abilitie and willingnes, were
selected by the order of their Balls, as Capt: of seuerall
Barges, which were decked vp in orderly representations, of
whales, vnicornes, dolphins, elephants, woods, fountaines,
and such like: wherein all the Marriners and attendants,
with seuerall warlike instruments, and musicke of lower
sound, were placed, both for ornament, glorie, magnifi-
cence, and adapted congruity, to the thing they attended:
and thus they passed all in order, 2. English mile in length,
vnder the *Rialto*-bridge: attended with infinite *Gondaloes*,

and Boates, who rowed for wagers, and strived for the
mastric of the best and speediest passage.

Yours, in all places and times.

To his honourable Friend, S. I.

*Newes from
Turine.*

Worthy Syr: I perceiue by you, that wise men will
smile sometimes, and the best grauitie can giue
care to triuiall discourses: yea, and I am afraid, 't is mans
naturall imperfection, to hunt after Nouelties, and the
minde is much delighted with varietie: else could you ne-
uer haue giuen way vnto such triuiall letters as I sent you,
and with a kinde of cheerfulness welcommed them, dis-
coursing onely of the passages of *Sanoy*, the height of the
Alpes, the snowe in *Iulie*, the falling of the water with such
impetuosity, & dangerous rupture, the pines on the moun-
taines, the plowing on the hilles, the strength of the Fortes
and Ramparts: especially *Agabella*, *Mount-Melian*, *Mo-
riana*, and Saint *Katherines*: and the brauery of the *Spa-
nish Garrisons* in those parts.

Because therefore I perceyue you of such faire de-
meanour, and willingnesse to support your Friend in his
weaknesse: I will goe forward in my passage of thankful-
nes. and make you belecue I write to you still more for
to expresse my loue, then come neere your satisfaction:
Belecue it then how-euer, I haue seene the admirable
Castles of the *Hellespont*, which be the keyes, to open and
shut in the glorie and strength of the Turkish Empire, the
naturall scituation of *Corfu*, the Forte of *Xante*, the Citta-
dell of *Naples*, the many Fortifications of *Italie*, and other
strengths of *Sicilia*, *Rhodes*, *Cyprus*, and such like: yet may
none

none of these compare with the Castle of *Millaine*, for Garisons glorie, greatnesse, Munition, Bulwarkes, Counter-scarphs, Casamattes, and all things pertaining to the managing of Martiall ostentation, and Military necessitie: So that this one place is the Anchor-holde of the Spanyards vsurpation in *Italie*: and the affrighting countenance, which keepeth many worthy Princes and Prouinces in awe, from attempting an inuasion in the Gouvernement, howeuer their hearts are affected, if any mischiefe should burst out against him: and this is most apparant in *Sauoy* it selfe: For the Spanyard vnderstanding of a contract betwene *Piedmont & Mantua*, with an other combination of *Modena*, sent diuers agēts to *Turine*: yea, employed many Knights of *Malta*, and the better sort of *Genoa*, to worke a means, that the *Sauoyen* Princes might be sent into *Spaine*, vnder the tuition of the Grandes and Cleargie: To which when the Secretary seemed to encline, he was imprisoned for his Spanish affection: and till the Cardinals *Aldabrandino* and *Casario*, with the Popes Nuntio, had streightened these crooked measures, and confirmed the Italian marriages, vncleashed: But the truth is, that, concerning the displeasure which these great personages beare one another, it ariseth both from couetousnesse and ambition.

For the *Sauoyen* hauing marryed a Daughter of *Spayne*, and seeing long since the *enfanta* quietly settled in the pride of the seuentene Prouinces: much repined, that eyther *Naples* or *Millaine*, especially *Millaine* for the proximitie, was not proportioned vnto him. And so, as (farre as hee durst, or could,) both repined against the same: and hath laboured with his Holynesse to be led, and inuested in a great r field of dominion and soueraignie. But for all this, I am resolved, no one thing troubles him more, then the escape of *Geneua*, from his proude attempts, and reaches.

So

So that if eyther pollicie, or strength could preuaile, with time and successe, to make him maister of the same, hee would quietly cast himself into the armes of contentment, and seeme proud in the glory of such an atchieuement.

Your euerslasting Friend.

*Newes from
Zidon, and
Ierusalem.*

To his especiall Friend, Capt: Abr: Yo.

Noble and worthy Friend: you and I may well vent out the breath of common prouerbs, that men may meet, but not Mountaines. For as I remember, we embraced in *France*: raunged ouer *Ireland*: yea, stamped in the durt, at *Kinsale*: encountred in *Germany*: saluted one another in *Italie*: played the wantons at *Venice*: and diuided our selues againe; as if the armes of the north & south, should open a larger embracing: For you prepared for *Sweden* and *Ruscia*: and I for *Zidon*, & the bottom of the streights; where I receyued a letter from you so compendious and well compacted, that I protest I made vse, concerning the occurrences of those times and places: and receyued delight from your inuention and phrased: not desisting, till I read and read it againe and againe; but when I came to your demaund of another of mine, for particulars, concerning the passage to *Ierusalem*, I started backe, as if I had seen an adder in a path, and was afraid, as if some mischiefe indeed were threatned or intended; Not that there was any difficultie in writing to my *Friend*, a Souldier and apprehensiu man, who could both pardon out of loue, and beare with imperfections out of fauour: but because the papist will repine at my truth; the traueller complaine of my simplicitie; and the curious desirer of Nouelties make a tush at my information: For good Syr, howeuer the Templars out of their pollicie, and imposturing cunning, erected a kinde of structure, to make *Ierusalem* looke with some face of nouelty, and framed a Vault, in which they de-

deceiued the world, with the Tombe of our Sauour: So that the adulterate daughter of religion, superstition, filled their Monastery and pallaces with infinite wealth and Ornaments, wherewith they made libertie and licentiousnes wanton with custome, & filthy abuses: and for which they were condemned by a general councell, and the Papall decree: and howeuer some corrupted Pope hath since giuen way to diuers Pilgrimages, and permitted certain friers to reuiue former memories, and gather together the scattred stones of the first Monastery, whereby there is a way open to simple credulity, to belieue some thing, & pay much for the same: yet without controuersie, since the last deuastation, and that the Turke hath piece-meale rent asunder the goodly edifices of those places, as wee were wont to exclaime *Nunc seges ubi Troia fuit*: now corne growes where *Troy* stood: we may well crie out, now are there heapes of dust, & some barren vines where *Ierusalem* florished: and according to his prophecie, that cannot erre, there is not one stone left vpon another: only the crafty Turks, & the couetous *Bishaw* of *Aleppo*, the gouernor of those parts, are contented to beare with things euen contrary to the lawes of their *Alcheren*, impugning altogether the Godhead and incarnation of *Christ*: as the *Iews* against his pouerty and humiliation: & for great sums of mony, & *annuall entrado*, suffer stil diuers friers & religious persons to entertain pilgrims, trauellers, ignorant deuotists, superstitious papists, and simple credulists, with impudēt, lying, & deceitfull relicks. For otherwise if riuers might be turned, there is neither show of Citie, temple, edifice, nor the *brooke* & *dron* it self: no, an vnderstanding man dare not say (by any seeming probability) that it is the same ground where *Ierusalē* was builded, & the glory of the *Iews* established; nor is there one *Iewe* remaining, nor honest man to maintain a veritie: yet is *Zidon* a harbour town, some 28. *English* mile frō the

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same:

same: & after the traueler or Marchāt hath performed his devotion, for great hyre, certaine guides & *Ianissaries* will conuoy him to *Gran Cayro*, *Arabia*, *Persia*, *Damasco*, or whither you please: so that sometimes you shall haue 400. camells loden with prouision, merchandize, & men, to take a iourney into *Persia*, and *Ormus* in the mouth of those Seas, against the fishing for Pearle: sometime the Christian for nouelties sake, will apparel himselfe like a Turk, with a *Turban*, to view the city of *Mecha* in *Arabia*, where *Mahomet* was entombed: Sometimes the passage is made easie into *Egipt*, and wee come this way to *Nylus*, from whence by Boate wee visite *Cayro*, *Alexandria*, and *Athyopia* it selfe. Sometimes we take another course, & goe by sea to *Scanderon* and *Aleppo*, and so trauell by *Damasco* to *Babylon* and *Armenia*: and somtimes haue the fortune to go to *Tauris*, and those places neere the *Caspian-Sea*: but this is very seldome, and neuer but when 4. or 500. Merchants make themselves strong, both in arms and prouision. For otherwise the Thieues of those places, especially *Arabia*, would make a prey and spoyle of all passengers. This is all I can say, this is all I dare write, for feare of interruption: but if euer the sunne will make our shadowes meete in England, I will iustifie further particulars, and make you wonder, that so many wise and vnderstanding men as haue bene in these partes, will bee transported against the veritie of *Scripture*, and the infallible congruitie of iudgement and reason.

My owne, in your memorie.

To his worthy Friend, M. T.

Good Syr, I neuer had such cause to remember the Philosophers Banquet, as when I lay in *Nicosia* in *Cyprus*. Newes from
Cyprus. For as I take it, *Epictetes* hauing inuited certain *Stoyck* philosophers to dinner: for a latter bāquetting-dish brought out the globe of the world: & after they had called a counsell, *Epictetes* ouercouerd it with a fooles-cappe, whereat *Heracletes* swept bitterly, and *Democrites* laught heartily.

The first bewalling the miserie, the latter, deriding the vanitie of the same: but if they had liued in *Cyprus*, and seene such confusion of gouernment; all yet ouershadowed with the Canopy of order and obedience to the State, it would questionlesse haue put them cleane out of patience, and turned their myrth into sorrow, and their sorrowes into raging and phrenzie. For the *Bashaw* expecting nothing but Tribute and legall iurisdiction, is carelesse how other Nations eyther liue with vpright conscience, or thriue with lawfull profite: So that the better sort practise what they list, because no man dare controwle, and inferiours follow all libertie and licentiousnes, because the others make way with ill example: The church-men confirme religion, but for pollicie, and are onely proud: they can terrifie the simple with feare of damnation, and dazell the eyes of the ignorant with the gawdy colours of superstition. The *Iewe* is grown so cruell in his vsurie & extortion, that wheras before it was much to forfeit goods and lands, now hee exacts vppon their very flesh and blood: glorying at nothing more, then to see penurie and wants eate vp a Christian: and coldnesse of charitie trouble his very soule. The Lawyer insults with the peace of the time, and to wring the gold out of mens purses, wrests the Law to theyr owne Fancies: so that they iustifie their actions

onely with legall authority. The Cittizen is bountifull in faire words, and so hee may make his merchandize vendable, hath learnd the tricke of *equiuocating*, and deceyuing his best customers. The crafts-man studieth for nothing, but to be craftie in his cunning. The *Courtezan* resembles the horleach, who neuer falls off till he be full: and when hee hath suckt the blood from the veynes, leaues a man to looke pittifully, on his sores and deformity. The Souldier sweates with rage, at that hee cannot remedie, and curseth peace, because it warres with his profit, nor will apprehend any goodnes, but in the ill of licentiousnes.

The *Noble-women* study for nothing but to seeme not to bee honest, yet haue they a clawse to affright inferiors for calling their actions in question: so giuing the more scope to their greatnes, to runne the more at randon in pleasure. The *Turkish* wiues vnderstanding these particulars, repine at their Prophet, & so murmur at their sequestration, that to haue some vse of the world, they visite the *Balneas*, come to buy iewells, make maskes in *English* attyre; vse perfumes, and rather then they will not please themselves, allure their very slaues to carnall pleasure.

To conclude, if euer the Diuell compassed the earth, and considered men, to make them subiects of hell, *Cyprus* is now a patterne; and the *Turks* there despise their *Alcaren*: the *Iewe* smileth at their Religion: the *Christian* derideth the scripture, and all men and people make a mocke of purity and sanctifying graces, or the true-way to saluation: So that I am weary of this prophane countrey, and desire nothing more then the blessednesse of our owne *England*, where the very soyle is the reuiuer of our spirits, and good gouernment the load-starre to eternall felicitie.

Tours, in the midst of temptation.

A Dumpe or Passion.

I cannot sing; For neither haue I voyce,
 Nor is my minde nor matter Muscicall:
 My barre pen hath neither form nor choyce
 Nor is my tale, or talef-man comicall,
 Fashions and I were neuer friends at all:
 I write, and credit that I see, and knowe,
 And mean plain troth; would euery one did so.
 I cannot faine mee vnto subtil faction,
 No prompt affection to an idle ghost,
 Nor doe I fauour any in detraction,
 Nor do I praise them, that themselues do boast
 Small fire sufficeth vnto little roast:
 A poor mans tale's soon told, as soon reproou'd
 Neuer assisted, though neuer so much soothd.
 For credite is not of a common stampe,
 The fairest gamesters are not alwayes winners:
 The strongest ioynts are troubled with the cramp
 And many good men are reputed sinners,
 Yet shallow foords seem best for yong beginners.
 The water's surest, where we feele the ground
 But all are not as safe as they be found.
 Conceyt's a current forcible and deepe,
 Simplicite a shiflesse shippe of feares:
 A man may dream amisse, & sinne asleepe,
 And foxes may accuse the asses eares:
 Patience and plainnesse euer burdens beares:
 And best they may, For custom doth inure it,
 And he is fit to beare that will endure it.
 Not euery stomacke brooketh euery meate,
 A dainty mouth can ill affect plaine fare:
 All appetites at all times cannot eate,
 Nor compleat merchant that hath euery ware
 Nor thrives hee euer that doth euer care:
 "Wishers and woulders practise & conspire,
 "all haue their hopes, not euery hope their hire
 For some are blessed, other some corrected,
 Some for their worke, and some for their intent:
 Nor are all, who our GOD hath made, elected
 Nor can all that offend, as well repent:
 Nor hath he pardoned all, whom he hath shent,
 Nor mad them happy, whom he doth forbear

And so much wiser in so much mistrust, *time*
 They haue most hope that haue most doubt of
 "the best assured hart must beare, or brust,
 Bare honesty is poore as Ballet-rime:
 And somewhile counted for an heynous crime;
 "Yet store's no soare, because the honest-wife,
 Are feasted, when they haue what will suffice.
 "Content's a royal portion for a Prince,
 "A minde at peace excelleth gouernment:
 "Hee hath abundance, that hath competence,
 "Pleasde is a treasure neuer to be spent,
 "The patient man did neuer yet repent:
 "Nor hope in vaine, nor yet in vaine repine,
 "For sufferance is sufferantly diuine.
 And yet it is a kinderance to my Creede,
 That neither sexe nor sorts in meanes or minde:
 Neither for cause, matter, desert, or deede,
 Should haue a care of liue, or loue of kinde,
 Lost-labour so to seeke, and such to finde:
 Then seeke no more to finde such labours losses
 "Tis better not to liue, then liue with crosses.
 For touching life, that we doe loue so much,
 And court with such variety of fauour:
 If that our wisdom and our grace were such
 To weigh our losse of time, with losse of labour,
 And iudge the mischuse of our misbehaviour:
 In both the courts of conscience & repentance
 Our selues might giue both euidence & sentece
 And scape the scrupule of a froward minde,
 And clense the filth of our corrupted sence:
 And in the molde of vanity soone finde
 The foule occasions of our wilde offence,
 Purging diseased sinnes with some pretence:
 Wherby we liue so wretchedly, so wrought on
 as neither GOD, nor any good is thought on.
 O wicked world! growth of inconstant passions,
 Wherein no vertue is at all abiding:
 If now at ease, streight sicke at least of fashions,
 With whose impatience there is no desiding,
 From whose deuises there is no diuiding:
 Now this, then that, eue as the humor breed.

Now honor'd much above our small desert,
Anon more low then is the seruile slave :
In whom ther is no hope, no worke, nor Art,
To purchase, or prolong, to wish, or craue ;
Oppression's humble, and opinion's brane :
All things uncertaine: yet most certaintoo
That what so ere Time made, it shall undoo.

Times past & present, teach vs what's to come
That fraile mortality is as fruitlesse aire :
Thogh much desirde, & honor'd much by some
By some lesse happy, in as much despaire,
In some most fowle, in other some most faire :
Most fowl, most fair, most desprat, most desird
And all but with infection most inspirde.

So all alike the Noble and the Clowne,
Dye, and with them their deeds, as well as they:
For after-ages put the former downe,
Their murtred monuments haue nought to say
Their beauties with their bodies, ayre, & clay:
Cæsar and Alexander, dead & rotten,
The actors and their actions quite forgotten.

Dauid, the Darling of th' Almightyes-heart
Predominant in pleasure and in power :
Most worthily, till wickednes did thwart
That heavenly Sun shine, with a worldly shewre
"The greatest winner hath a loosing hower.
For GOD did neuer yet make that man liue
That hath not in his life some cause to griene.

How trust we then to vaine abilitie ?
The breath of howrs, & giddy Fortunes fauors:
Woofe alterations worke debilitie, howrs,
And our loose-hopes, with loosing happes misti-
time hiteth fools, as fools hit hares with tabers
Beating vpon the toppe of stiles and stockes,
Till in the fire of pride they burne like blocks.

Sencelesse of all sence, but sencelesse pleasure
And that it selfe euen as it is affected :
Subscribing onely to the humors leisure,
By which alone they wholly are directed,
Till ill by worse be worthily detected :

Then car'd as little for, as they haue car'd
Then feele the difference to be spoyld, or spar'd.

Beauty and strength are but a vulgar blast,
And shape a subiect vnto enery beast :
Euen sence it selfe, will leaue our selues at last
When this shall be the subiect of the feast,
That vertues store will neuer be decreast :
Wher good men may recoût without controule
The golden reckoning of an humble soule.

And to dilate the matter somewhat more,
Let's looke a little ore the world againe :
And see, if that we haue not causes store
to fret our selues, and on our selues complaine,
that any worldly Soyle our soules should staine,
When nothing in the world is good or sure:
ther's nothing good that can the world endure.

Princes of state, the game of Fortunes wheele,
Are treasons subiects, thralls to base despight :
tormented in their soules, when as they feele
A guilty conscience open inward sight
to see, how wrongs haue ouergrowne the right:
And how so ere theyr titles make them proud
Yet must they (dye like me) GO D saies aloud.

Nobles (the breath of Kings) are vaine in pride
And vner in opinion of vaine men: (tyde
Swelling with factious hearts gainst wind and
If they be crost, or countermanded, when
The Lyon amongst the beasts comes from his den
And peradventure takes the Ape to play,
When Beasts of nobler kinde are chafde away.

Great Officers (the wantons of the time)
Sifting theyr senses through sleight vanitie :
Teaching poore vertue, that this durt & slime
Must worke our worldly base felicitie,
And further pleasures in iniquitie :

As for the soule, let simple men regard it,
For being simple, simple worths reward it.
Friends yet vntryde, like golden hanging fruite
With wordes of fauour, and as smooth as oyle,
Smoake promises to helpe thee in thy sute,
But all to countnance pride, and to beguile
Simplicitie with many a fained smile :

For touch them once, they crumble vnto dust
like burnt cole-fruit, which Tâtalus did trust

Acquaintance onely bubbles in the ayre,
 Made out of sope and water by young boyes:
 Swelling a while with pleasant shape and faire,
 As long as our owne breath augments the voyes,
 but blown on burst prouing the selues slight toyes
 For if that o r misfortunes are espyde,
 They quickly shrink, & hang their heads aside.
 Children the care of cares, and harts disease
 In such a time of brauery and sinne,
 Where disobedient sonnes must needs displease,
 And daughters faire, themselves to know begin
 Seeking a dangerous libertie to winne:
 For what a Feuer makes the Father quake,
 whē daughters hāds with fool or whore do take.
 Women the torments of vnsettled hearts,
 The very Fewell vnto burning lust,
 Yet in themselves doe acte contrary parts,
 Against such men as doo them truely trust,
 For if they swell wth wantonnesse vnburst:
 They practise slye deceyts: if they be good,
 Yet oft with chafings they doe vex: thy blood.
 Strūpets most dangerous baytes, a burning fire
 Blacke coales consuming, or for to be smeer:
 Trothles to trust, wrought up with greater hire
 A foule consumption of the soule most deere,
 Yet making boyles and botches to appeare:
 O that fond mā wold liue with sweetned breath
 For their darke stincking houses lead to death.
 Beautie, a pleasing ornament to sight,
 Ordainde to shew the Makers noble glorie:
 But see how Pride and Nature doth delight,
 To ouerthrow the goodnes of a story,
 Although decayed with time, when head is hory
 Yet is it made adulterate by arte,
 When a false hand hath playde a cunning part.
 Opinion is a Monster amongst vs all,
 Yet doth not terrifie wth outward shape:
 Onely our selues doe as we rise and fall,
 After the censures of the people gape,
 And thereupon by force of vicious rape
 Bereaue sweete uertue of her chastitie,
 Wth anxious hearts swelling in vanitie.

Life and the best life but a topping tree
 Set in the midst of a confused grange:
 Which whē the Lord thinks good he doth agree
 to fell, or roote it vp for some newe change,
 Or trie some stranger form, by such exchange.
 Yea peradventure burned in the fire,
 subiects must yeld to what their kings require
 Apprell monstrous by our monstrous wills,
 Disguising our defects, seeking to hyde
 Natures deformitie, when purse fulfills
 An humorous wantonnesse on euery side:
 Yet frō substantiall truth most largely wide.
 For when that we must naked goe to graue,
 What will become of that wee seeme to haue?
 Vertues and vices, neither good nor bad,
 But as the owners states giue them their test:
 For, who in estimation can be had,
 For greatest vertues if they doe not rest
 In wealth, or good opinion of the best:
 And vicious who, but he that cannot hide
 And keepe his faults from being soone espyde?
 Buildings of sumptuous cost, the prey of Fire,
 are sometimes curst, with sobbing poor mes cries:
 When to erect what greatnesse doth desire
 A hundred cottages in rubbish lyes,
 And many an Orphan vrelieued, dyes:
 But where the mortar of an house is mixt
 Wth blamelesse bloud, it cannot long be fixt.
 Pearls, pretious stones, the glasse of plēties pride
 Riches and Friends, vnstaide in mood & minde,
 Kinred, but Natures chaffe, Whē they are tride
 For they will flye away wth Stormy winde,
 In whom, nor loue, nor truth at all we finde:
 These shapfull monsters daily alter so,
 as wee can hardly credite, what we know.
 The fraudfull Fox deals friēdly wth her whelps
 There is no beast that to her owne is cruell:
 All things were by creation made for helpes
 And kinde to kinde is still a friendly ieuell:
 The Fire doth giue him fire, that giueth Fuell;
 Euen there where contraries enforce despight
 Nature in nature teacheth mist.

Then, if thou wilt be man, and not be kinde,
Disdaine thy needlesse int'rest in creation:
Be to instruction, deafe, to nature blinde:
With neither man nor beast haue conuersation,
Abandon hope of grace, abiure saluation:
Be both aline and dead harmful and hatefull
Be anything, if thou wilt be ingratefull.

And lay aside absurde Affinitie,
Vnlesse to hell thou wilt allye thy selfe:
And so the Diuell graunt immunitie:
As is thy trust in him, and in thy wealth.
Abortiue potion of foule paysoned pelfe:
Sorrow of sexle, and surfet of vile sinne,
Man had bene happy if thou hadst not him.

An honest minde in former time did show
More pietie then now the best of kinne:
That was because the time was honest to,
Much better then this age, that wee are in,
Such are the putrefactions of sinne:
Our almes, our neighbor-hood, our humanity,
Turnd diuell, discord, and immanitie.

Neighbour indeed is now by stranger nam'de,
Conser by consnage, kindenesse is unknowne:
And friends of friendship are so much ashamed
As custome hath concluded there is none, (one.
None that doth good, the Psalmist saith, not
It is the Prophet, it is G O D, doth say it,
And man were much to blame to disobey it.

As hee's as much to blame that doth beliene
Any that liues in ioy, vnus'de to moorne:
Doth loue, can loue, commiserate, or grieue,
Father or brother haplesse and forlorne,
For pittie onely is to plenty sworne:
And hee's a bastard vnto worldly blood,
That doth a poore man eyther grace, or good.

Yet GOD forbid, that GOD should canser be,
That wee for lacke of knowing him do erre:
He gracious suffers, whilst that gracelesse wee
His tollerance into negligence trans-ferre,
Whereby it makes the Atheist to auerre:
The soule of man immortall in the least,
Shall not die, as it doth in beast.

Men cannot doe, what cannot be vndone,
Nor suffer more then flesh and blood can beare:
Who playes with fortune, sildom times hath won
T'is labour lost to worke aganst the haire,
Then not preuaile, its better to forbeane:
"A thing vndone, is easily prevented,
Doe to vndoe is neuer vnrepented.

Glorious designs are ammelled in blood,
The way to greatnes is vneuen and hard:
He neuer was that for preferment stood,
That was not often with mischaunces barrd,
The body of attempts haue crosses scarrd:
Who lund and sought for honest labours hyre
And was not forst to worke it out of Fire.

Courts and occurrences of Kings & Pallaces,
Where some soone rise, to fall againe as fast:
Show the conditions of the fallaces,
Whose fruits doe scantly blow before they blast,
Planted with care, and with repentance past:
So that compare the gains with losse surmounting
And saue a labour, and auoyd accounting.

T'is pittie Warre were not at warre with this
But let the worthlesse Souldier be aduanced:
The better times made better seruices,
Where best endeour: best rewards enhanced,
But now the best of Beggars is best chaunced:
A heauy Fortune that such hazard yeelds,
Either to starue at home, or die in Fields.

But heare my counsell in a Grand-fires phrase
All doe amisse, let all amisse amend:
Self sauing workes are best deseruing praise,
And praise on workes in prudence done, attend
All actions are approoned as they end:
Who made the feast will fast to mind the pay,
whē vnthrifts care not who the charge defray.
Then sith the ende is good of these my Rimes;
Theyr plainnesse shoves no vainnesse,
but the Times.

F I N I S.

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